



Hawaii Dental Association

To: House Committee on Health
Time/Date: 10:40 am, March 23, 2023
Location: State Capitol via Video Conference and Room 329
Re: HCR 26, HR 28 REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CREATE A FORMAL PLAN TO IMPLEMENT CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ORAL HEALTH CARE FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Dental Association (HDA) comments on HCR 26 and HR 28. These resolutions request the Department of Health to create a formal plan to implement certain recommendations oral health in the State and make recommendations to improve oral health infrastructure in Hawaii.

Oral health is essential for overall health and wellness. One cannot be healthy without a healthy mouth. It can show signs of nutritional deficiencies or general infection. Systemic diseases, those that affect the entire body, may first become apparent because of mouth lesions or other oral problems. Therefore, we support measures that promote oral health and overall health and wellness. HDA's number one priority is patient safety. We respectfully request that Page 2, Line 10, of the resolutions be amended to read:

- (1) Address oral health in connection with overall health, *while ensuring quality of care and the highest standards of patient safety;*

HDA is a statewide membership organization representing dentists practicing in Hawaii and licensed by the State of Hawaii's Board of Dentistry. HDA members are committed to protecting the oral health and well-being of the people of Hawaii, from keiki to kupuna and everyone in between.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments and to work together with the legislature for the health and wellbeing of our community.

HR-28

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 1:55:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/23/2023 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In light of the newest research and report on the neurotoxicity of fluoride, there should be no language or discussion of community water fluoridation. All patient populations must be considered not just one. Mahalo for listening.