JAN 18 2008

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DENTAL HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

- SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii's public elementary school children have tooth decay rates that nearly double those documented in all of the other states. For native
- 4 Hawaiian and Filipino children, the rate of tooth decay is even
- 5 higher. Poor oral health among children and vulnerable adult
- 6 populations is among the most widespread and pressing challenges
- 7 identified in Hawaii. Dental disease, including tooth decay, is
- 8 Hawaii's silent epidemic. It causes pain, suffering, loss of
- 9 productivity at school and work, and becomes more expensive to
- 10 treat the longer the decay or disease is left untreated. In
- 11 addition to negatively affecting one's quality of life, dental
- 12 disease and tooth decay are also catalysts to other life-
- 13 threatening systemic diseases and infections.
- 14 There is a dramatic documented variance in Hawaii between
- 15 children attending military base schools whose water is
- 16 fluoridated and children in non-military base schools. While
- 17 many factors affect dental health, the fact that Hawaii's

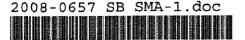
- 1 military base water systems are optimally fluoridated is
- 2 considered the major factor contributing to the superior oral
- 3 health found among military base elementary school children.
- 4 When dental health statistics from Hawaii's military bases are
- 5 not used in the calculations, Hawaii ranks last in oral health
- 6 in the United States.
- 7 Over four hundred million people in over sixty countries
- 8 presently receive the benefits of optimally fluoridated drinking
- 9 water. This figure includes more than one hundred seventy
- 10 million people in the United States in thousands of communities,
- 11 and approximately sixty-five per cent of the total United States
- 12 population. Every recent United States surgeon general has
- 13 recommended optimally fluoridating water. More than one hundred
- 14 health organizations, including the American Medical Association
- 15 and the World Health Organization, support water fluoridation.
- 16 Between 2000 and 2004, more than one hundred twenty-five United
- 17 States communities in thirty-six states have voted to adopt
- 18 fluoridation programs. The Centers for Disease Control and
- 19 Prevention has proclaimed community water fluoridation as one of
- 20 the ten great public health achievements of the 20th century.
- 21 Fluoridation is safe and cost effective. Community water
- 22 fluoridation in the United States has a record of safety and

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- 1 effectiveness dating back over fifty years. Despite claims to
- 2 the contrary, years of critical scientific research has not
- 3 demonstrated an association between fluoridation and acute or
- 4 long-term health problems. It is considered among the most
- 5 socially equitable and cost-effective public health measures
- 6 ever implemented. The benefits of fluoridated drinking water
- 7 include a sixty to sixty-five per cent reduction in tooth decay.
- 8 Our communities would further benefit from this substantial
- 9 reduction in tooth decay by lower private and public health care
- 10 costs and dental insurance premiums. Those in greatest need in
- 11 our community will benefit the most. The United States Centers
- 12 for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the lifetime
- 13 cost to benefit ratio of community water fluoridation is 1:80;
- 14 every dollar spent on fluoridation will save eighty dollars in
- 15 health care costs. The average annual cost of community water
- 16 fluoridation is estimated to be about one dollar per person per
- 17 year. The lifetime cost per person is less than a single dental
- 18 filling.
- 19 All drinking water systems in Hawaii contain a low level of
- 20 naturally occurring fluoride. The adjusted concentration
- 21 recommended to effectively improve oral health is 0.7 parts per
- 22 million. In relative terms, this minute amount may be viewed as



- 1 equivalent in length to one inch in 20.8 miles, in time, to one
- 2 minute in 2.6 years, in money, to one penny in \$13,000, and in
- 3 per cent, to 1/13,000th of one per cent.
- 4 The purpose of this Act is to effectuate the
- 5 recommendations of the Maui Health Initiative Task Force
- 6 established pursuant to Act 219, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, by
- 7 establishing a pilot program in Maui county that will promote
- 8 oral health in our communities by adjusting the amount of
- 9 naturally occurring fluoride in the water to the optimum level
- 10 that will benefit oral health.
- 11 SECTION 2. Chapter 340E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
- 12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
- 13 and to read as follows:
- 14 "\$340E- Water fluoridation pilot program. (a) There is
- 15 established a water fluoridation pilot program to be
- 16 administered by the director in Maui county. The director shall
- 17 administer the program to all other communities at the option
- 18 and request of each requesting community.
- 19 (b) At any time that the fluoride content of water served
- 20 by the public water system in an area specified under subsection
- 21 (a) is less than 0.7 parts per million of fluoride, the
- 22 department shall add a measured amount of fluoride to the water



- 1 so as to maintain a fluoride content that is in accordance with
- 2 the water fluoridation guidelines issued by the United States
- 3 <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</u>
- 4 (c) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
- 5 to effectuate this section."
- 6 SECTION 3. The department of health shall submit a report
- 7 to the legislature evaluating the efficacy of the water
- 8 fluoridation pilot program no later than twenty days prior to
- 9 the convening of each regular legislative session in which the
- 10 program is administered.
- 11 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
- 12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
- 13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 for
- 14 the establishment and administration of the water fluoridation
- 15 pilot program in Maui.
- 16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
- 17 health for the purposes of this Act.
- 18 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.
- 19 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
- 20 provided that section 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2008; and

- 1 provided further that this Act shall be repealed on July 1,
- 2 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Oral Health; Water Fluoridation; Maui Pilot Program; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of health to establish and administer the water fluoridation pilot program in Maui county to adjust the amount of naturally occurring fluoride in the water to a level that will benefit oral health. Makes appropriations.