



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN ONLY

**Testimony in Opposition to SCR153
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REVIEW
AND ANALYZE ALL ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVES
CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN THE STATE, INCLUDING THE
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM, AND
PREPARE A PROGRESS REPORT ON EACH INITIATIVE**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 1, 2015 Room Number: 414

1 **Fiscal Implications:** No fiscal impact.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department opposes this resolution since many of the activities in
3 the resolution are being addressed with a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Oral Health Disease
4 Prevention grant. The Department has been able to leverage the grant funds to secure additional
5 resources to achieve steady progress toward the activities described in this resolution including:

- 6 • Completion of Oral Health Surveillance report with identification of data gaps,
- 7 • A summary of Key Findings from the data report with recommendations for
8 consideration,
- 9 • Development of a data surveillance plan,
- 10 • Reporting of annual data to the National Oral Health Surveillance System,
- 11 • Conducting of a third grade oral health screening survey, Hawaii Smiles, in 64 public and
12 charter schools statewide to collect county and state-level estimates on treated and
13 untreated tooth decay as well as the prevalence of dental sealants,
- 14 • Establishment of an oral health data advisory group comprised of diverse stakeholders,
- 15 • Development of an oral health policy review report,
- 16 • Development of an environmental scan to collect information and analysis of state oral
17 health resources including workforce data, safety net services, and other major
18 community and state-level programs.

1 The Department has been working with the national Child Health Dental Project to conduct a
2 state policy consensus process recommended by the Centers for Disease Control that will
3 convene diverse stakeholders to develop recommendations for oral health policy and planning.
4 The Department has received substantial technical support and guidance from national oral
5 health experts to assure progress in building of the state oral public health program. Assistance
6 is being provided by the CDC Oral Health Division, the Association of State and Territorial
7 Dental Directors, the Child Health Dental Project, the American Network of Oral Health
8 Coalitions, and other state dental health directors.

9 The Department has also collaborated with community stakeholders toward building a
10 strong oral public health system.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

12



HPCA

HAWAI'I PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. Josh Green, Chair

The Hon. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Testimony on SCR 153

Submitted by Nani Medeiros, Public Affairs and Policy Director

April 1, 2015, 2:00 pm, Room 414

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, supports SCR 153 calling for a review of all oral health initiatives in the state.

In Hawaii, the rate of tooth decay in children is twice as high as that of children living on the mainland. As a point of reference, over 94 percent of mainland six year olds are entirely free from cavities, while only 19 percent of six year olds in Hawaii are cavity-free. Later in life, health care research points to associations between chronic oral infections and diabetes, heart and lung disease, stroke, and low-birth-weight births—conditions that are more complicated and costly to treat than effective, timely oral health care.

For these reasons, we support a comprehensive review of where the state stands on dental health initiatives. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
April 1, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Green and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SR 95/SCR 153 - Requesting the Department of Health to Review and Analyze All Oral Health Initiatives Currently Underway in the State, Including the Centers for Disease Control Program, and Prepare a Progress Report on Each Initiative

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF SR 95/SCR 153**. The concurrent resolution requests the Department of Health (DOH) to review and analyze all oral health initiatives currently underway in the State, including the Centers for Disease Control Program, and prepare a progress report on each initiative.

The Council cannot emphasize enough the importance of oral health that includes comprehensive dental care services (preventive, restorative, prosthetic, and emergency services) for people with DD. We recognize how oral health, or the lack thereof, affects all aspects (emotional, psychological, and social) of our lives.

We are aware that the DOH Family Health Services Division, Oral Health Program is responsible for statewide surveillance, planning, and prevention. In 2013, they received a cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control that assists State health departments to build and maintain effective public health capacity to implement, evaluate, and disseminate best practices to prevent oral disease and improve oral health for the State population.

In light of the above, the Council defers to DOH regarding its capacity to carry out the scope of activities described in SR 95/SCR 153.

The Honorable Josh Green
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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **supporting the intent of
SR 95/SCR 153**

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, M.S.W.
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe
Chair