
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ADD
\$4,000,000 TO FUND ADULT DENTAL SERVICES TO THE EXECUTIVE
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR THE 2019 FISCAL YEAR.

1 WHEREAS, funding for adult dental services through the
2 Department of Human Services Med-Quest Division ended in 2015;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, individuals who are under twenty-one years old are
6 Medicaid-eligible for endodontic therapy, periodontics therapy,
7 restorations, oral surgery, and prosthodontic services but those
8 who are twenty-one and over are only Medicaid-eligible for
9 emergency services to eliminate dental pain, dental infection,
10 and acute injuries; and
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12 WHEREAS, there is a need for routine adult dental services
13 to continue; and
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15 WHEREAS, while one in five older Americans have untreated
16 tooth decay and more than forty per cent of seniors have
17 periodontal disease, an estimated seventy per cent of seniors
18 lack or have limited dental insurance according to Pew
19 Charitable Trusts; and
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21 WHEREAS, the lack of Med-QUEST coverage for routine adult
22 dental care has led to poor adults in Hawaii foregoing dental
23 treatment such as treatment for gum disease and root canals,
24 leading to a rise in working-age adults seeking dental care in
25 hospital emergency rooms; and
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27 WHEREAS, it is more cost-effective to treat dental problems
28 in a dental office with a participating dentist rather than in
29 the emergency room; and



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1 WHEREAS, research shows that oral bacteria may lead to
2 respiratory infections, be associated with dementia, and put
3 people at risk for cardiovascular disease and various other
4 illnesses; and

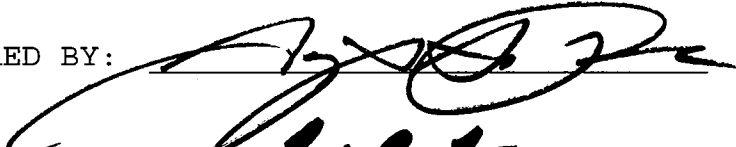
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6 WHEREAS, oral bacteria may access the bloodstream through
7 sores in damaged gums, which may affect the heart or brain and
8 lead to life-threatening infections and death; and

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10 WHEREAS, at a 2014 legislative hearing, the Department of
11 Human Services Med-QUEST Division estimated that it would cost
12 \$4,000,000 to fund adult dental services; now, therefore,

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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
16 of 2018, that the Governor and the Director of Human Services
17 are urged to add \$4,000,000 to fund adult dental services to the
18 Executive Supplemental Budget for the 2019 Fiscal Year; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of Human
22 Services, and Director of Finance.

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25 OFFERED BY:


David R. F.
Carol Evans
Brian K. Kapa
Nadine K. Miller

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