



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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February 9, 2018

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

#### House Bill 2152 – Relating to Human Services

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 2152 Relating to Human Services. The purpose of this bill is to make an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees. According to the Mayo Clinic, studies have shown that the mouth is teeming with bacteria and without proper oral hygiene, such as brushing and flossing, the bacteria may lead to oral infections, tooth decay, and gum disease.

Providing access to dental care for adult Medicaid enrollees would do a great deal to help in the prevention of severe gum disease and other health conditions that may be linked to poor oral health such as endocarditis, cardiovascular disease or premature birth and birth weight. Certain other health conditions may also affect oral health including diabetes, HIV/AIDS, osteoporosis causing weakened bones in the jaw, or Alzheimer's disease. Access to basic adult dental benefits for Medicaid enrollees would assist in improved general health care. A major portion of Medicaid enrollees are individuals with disabilities.

We defer to the Department of Human Services regarding the appropriation necessary to restore basic adult dental health benefits to this population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
1010 Richards Street, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 08, 2018

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 2152 – Relating to Human Services

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS HB 2152**. The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to Department of Human Services (DHS) to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees. Requires DHS to obtain the maximum federal matching funds available for this expenditure.

The Council cannot emphasize enough the importance of dental care services that include preventive, restorative, prosthetic, and emergency services for people with DD. We are all aware of how oral health, or the lack thereof, affects all aspects (emotional, psychological, and social) of our lives. Numerous individuals can share with you their experience of having a tooth or teeth extracted or acquiring serious health problems because necessary dental services were not available due to the termination of Medicaid adult dental benefit coverage in 1996. Compounding the challenges is the limited number of dentists on the Neighbor Islands who are available and willing to serve Medicaid enrollees

We applaud the Legislature's initiative in restoring basic adult dental benefits through HB 2152.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB 2152**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 8, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB2152 - RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Friday, February 9, 2018; 8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

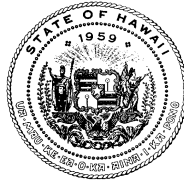
**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers comments on this bill.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is appropriate funds to the DHS to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees. Requires the DHS to obtain the maximum federal matching funds available for the expenditure.

DHS appreciates and supports the restoration of a basic oral health benefit for adult Medicaid and QUEST Integration recipients. The current limited benefit of emergency-only coverage does not support the goals of whole person care. Additionally the inability of recipients to access preventive oral health care can have a negative impact on a person's health, especially for individuals with chronic diseases.

DHS respectfully requests that the Legislature support the funding priority for adult dental services included in the Governor's supplemental budget request. DHS has requested \$4,704,480 in general funds and \$7,056,720 in federal funds for fiscal year 2019 for restoration of adult dental benefits. Appropriation through the budget will support the program's continuity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 2152**  
**RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 9, 2018

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None to the Department. The Department defers to the Department of  
2 Human Services on program and fiscal implications of H.B. 2152.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of this bill and offers  
4 comments on H.B. 2152. The Department of Health 2015 Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings  
5 report identified expanding Medicaid dental services for adults beyond the limited benefits for  
6 emergency and palliative care as one of eight strategies to improve oral health.

7 The 2016 Hawaii Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data shows that 71.6% of  
8 adults in Hawaii visited a dentist in the past year. However, only 47.9% of low income adults  
9 had a dental visit. The 2014 Hawaii Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System data shows  
10 less than half of pregnant women (46.9%) see a dentist for teeth cleaning although national  
11 health recommendations state dental visits are safe and important to prevent dental problems for  
12 mothers and their developing babies. Low-income pregnant women have even lower estimates  
13 for teeth cleaning (34.9%).

14 Nationally, several states have shown a lack of regular dental care drives up health care  
15 costs by examining emergency department data. Without access to preventive and treatment  
16 services, many residents seek care at hospital emergency departments for dental problems  
17 although dental services are not available there. In January 2017, the Hawaii Health Information  
18 Corporation (HHIC) reported that there were nearly 3,000 emergency department (ED) visits by  
19 children and adults in Hawaii over a one-year period (2015-2016) for preventable dental



1 problems, representing more than \$17.3 million dollars in hospital charges by both state, federal  
2 and private providers.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**February 9, 2018 at 8:30 AM**  
**Conference Room 329**

**House Committee on Health and Human Services**

To: Chair John M. Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

From: Paige Heckathorn  
Senior Manager, Legislative Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**HB 2152, Relating to Human Services**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

We would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** HB 2152, which would restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid patients. Having and maintaining good oral health enables individuals to live healthier, more productive lives. A report released by the Department of Health titled *Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings* reveals that there are disparities in access to basic and routine dental treatment for underserved individuals. According to the report, low-income residents in the state were more likely to have dental problems and less likely to seek care to resolve those issues than their counterparts. Restoring the dental benefit in the Medicaid program will help to increase access to needed preventive and dental services that can help to bridge this gap in care.

Addressing dental issues early is also beneficial for the health care system, since many individuals turn to emergency room care to seek treatment. According to the department's report, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems in 2012. Expanding access to and encouraging the use of preventive dental treatments and oral health services could help to lower the number of visits, saving the system from costly treatments. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.



February 8, 2018

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of HB 2152**  
**Relating to Oral Health**

**Friday February 9, 2018 8:30 AM Room 329**

On behalf of Hui No Ke Ola Pono, Native Hawaiian Health Care System and myself on Maui, we strongly **SUPPORT** this bill to restore adult dental benefits for those on Medicaid.

Dental care is vital to the over health of individuals. Nearly 50% of all adults aged 30 or older have some form of gum disease according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and adult cavities is on the rise. Around 90% of all adults have had a cavity and 1 in 4 adults have untreated cavities.

It is vital to support the dental benefit restoration to Medicaid for those who are most in need. Prevention will save millions of dollars in restorative care services in the long term.

If patients are not in pain, they can eat healthier and have a more positive outlook they are more likely to gain employment and be more productive. Since 2009 when this benefit was removed, we have witnessed increasing numbers of individuals who are in direct need of care.

This is the single most important bill currently in the legislature to our patients. We strongly encourage the committee to pass this bill and restore this much needed service to those most in need.

Sincerely,

Joseph Gonsalves  
Executive Director

*Serving the Native Hawaiians on Maui for 25 years*



Date: February 8, 2018

To: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Re: **Strong Support for HB 2152, Relating to Human Services**

Hrg: February 9, 2018 at 8:30 am at Capitol Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of HB 2152, Relating to Human Services, which would restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i. HIPHI weaves silos into working relationships as an effective network, ensuring that we come together across sectors to advance collaboration and innovation in public health and work towards making Hawai'i the healthiest place to live.

HB 2152 appropriates funds to the DHS to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid and QUEST integration enrollees. Oral health in our state is a public health crisis, with Hawaii receiving a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report card released by The Pew Center for the States. Restoring basic adult dental benefits would help to address this crisis. In addition, a 2015 Department of Health report entitled Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings revealed the a shortfall in the area of dental benefits, including:

- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults.
- 51% of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, compared to only 32% of high-income adults.
- In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000 compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006.

Medicaid does not provide any preventive oral healthcare for adults, only emergency dental (extraction or pain management). Adult Medicaid enrollees have no coverage for preventive or routine dental care, and this lack of access has a negative impact on one's health, especially for individuals with chronic diseases such as coronary disease and diabetes. In addition, because of

the lack of coverage, many low-income adults only seek dental care for acute conditions that have been allowed to reach a crisis stage.

HIPHI defers to the State Department of Human Services on the estimates to restore basic adult dental benefits. We strongly support the restoration of these benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jessica Yamauchi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a small dot at the end.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA  
Executive Director



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Paula Yoshioka, Vice President of Government Relations and External Affairs, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2018

Hrg: House Committee on Health & Human Services Hearing; Friday, February 9, 2018 at 8:30AM in Room 329

Re: **Support for HB 2152, Relating to Human Services**

My name is Paula Yoshioka, and I am a Vice President of Government Relations and External Affairs at The Queen's Health Systems. We would like to express our **support** for HB 2152 HD1, Relating to Human Services. This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees. It also requires DHS to obtain the maximum federal matching funds available for this expenditure.

The Queen's Medical Center Dental Clinic is home to Hawaii's only accredited hospital-based General Practice Residency Program and provides comprehensive dental services to meet the needs of our community. Queen's is committed to providing quality care to Native Hawaiians and all the people of Hawaii regardless of their ability to pay.

For Fiscal Year 2017, 60% of the patients served at the Dental Clinic were Medicaid eligible. Queen's supports restoring basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

We commend the legislature for introducing this measure and ask for your support in passing it. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

*The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*





**Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Friday, February 9, 2018; 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**RE: SUPPORTING INTENT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 2152, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.**

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS THE INTENT** of House Bill No. 2152, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES., and offers **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS** for your consideration.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to restore basic adult dental benefits to medicaid enrollees; and
- (2) Require DHS to obtain the maximum federal matching funds available for this expenditure.

Over the past six legislative sessions, the HPCA has urged the Legislature to appropriate additional funds to HMS401 for the reinstatement of adult dental Medicaid coverage, without success. As such, we would like to offer an alternative solution for your consideration. We do not believe additional funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 are necessary because it is our contention that there are sufficient resources within HMS401 to reinstate this essential benefit.

**I. EXISTING APPROPRIATION (HMS401 -- HEALTH CARE PAYMENTS)**

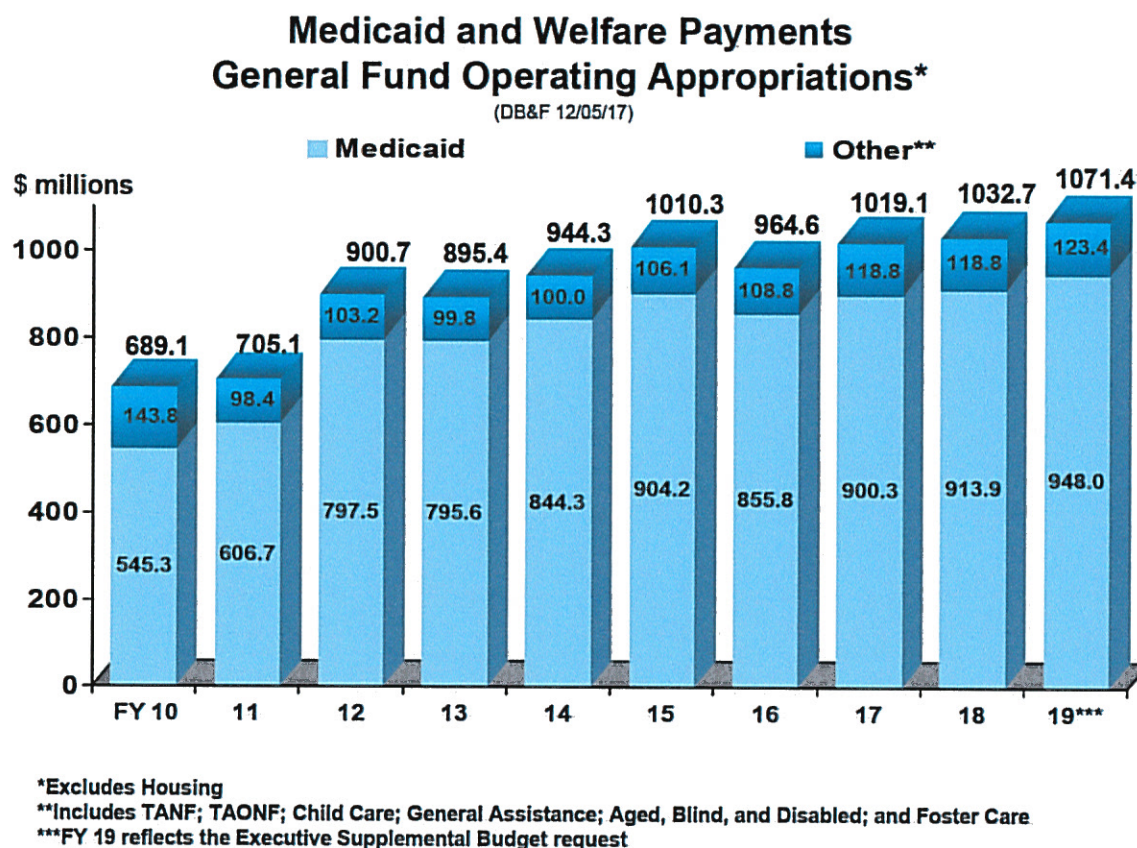
Funding for Hawaii's Medicaid Program is appropriated within Line Item HMS401 of Act 49, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017 -- the Budget Act. The objective of this Line Item was to "ensure that qualified low-income and disabled individuals and families are provided health care services, including medical, **dental**, hospital, nursing home, home and community-based, and other professional services, either through a fee-for-service or QUEST-managed care program."<sup>1</sup> [Emphasis added.] Since Fiscal Year 2015, the Legislature has appropriated more than \$904 million in General Funds each year into HMS401.

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<sup>1</sup> Narrative for Supplemental Budget Requests, FY2019, Program ID: HMS401.

See, Chart from Budget in Brief, below:<sup>2</sup>

Chart 4



In addition to General Funds, Special Funds, Federal Funds, Other Federal Funds, and Interdepartmental Transfers were also appropriated into HMS401.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Chart 4, Medicaid and Welfare Payments, General Fund Operating Appropriations, from The FY2019 Executive Supplemental Budget, Budget in Brief, p.131.

<sup>3</sup> Operating and Capital Budget Summaries, Department of Human Services, p. 695.



PROGRAM ID: HMS-401 PROGRAM STRUCTURE NO: 06020305 PROGRAM TITLE: HEALTH CARE PAYMENTS		EXECUTIVE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (IN DOLLARS)						REPORT: S61-A		
		FY 2018			FY 2019			BIENNIUM TOTALS		
PROGRAM COSTS		CURRENT APPRN	ADJUSTMENT	RECOMMEND APPRN	CURRENT APPRN	ADJUSTMENT	RECOMMEND APPRN	CURRENT BIENNIUM	RECOMMEND BIENNIUM	PERCENT CHANGE
OTH CURRENT EXPENSES		2,633,657,465		2,633,657,465	2,769,392,759	10,977,695	2,780,370,454	5,403,050,224	5,414,027,919	
TOTAL OPERATING COST		2,633,657,465		2,633,657,465	2,769,392,759	10,977,695	2,780,370,454	5,403,050,224	5,414,027,919	0.20
BY MEANS OF FINANCING										
GENERAL FUND	913,892,726			913,892,726	944,108,598	3,920,975	948,029,573	1,858,001,324	1,861,922,299	
SPECIAL FUND	1,376,660			1,376,660	1,376,660		1,376,660	2,753,320	2,753,320	
FEDERAL FUNDS	1,698,390,124			1,698,390,124	1,803,909,546	7,056,720	1,810,966,266	3,502,299,670	3,509,356,390	
OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS	13,216,034			13,216,034	13,216,034		13,216,034	26,432,068	26,432,068	
INTERDEPT. TRANSF	6,781,921			6,781,921	6,781,921		6,781,921	13,563,842	13,563,842	
TOTAL PERM POSITIONS										
TOTAL TEMP POSITIONS										
TOTAL PROGRAM COST		2,633,657,465		2,633,657,465	2,769,392,759	10,977,695	2,780,370,454	5,403,050,224	5,414,027,919	0.20

In 2018, the Department of Human Services requested \$4,704,480 in General Funds, and \$7,066,720 in Federal Funds for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, to restore adult dental Medicaid benefits, including preventative and restorative oral health services. To put this request into perspective, \$4,704,480 in General Funds amounts to **less than one-half of one percent** of the \$944,108,598 in General Funds that had already been appropriated for Fiscal Year 2019 pursuant to Act 49, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017. If you were to add the General Funds and Federal Funds requested together (\$4,704,480 + \$7,066,720 = \$11,771,200), the total amount requested would be **closer to four-tenths of one percent** of the total funds appropriated in HMS401.

**The HPCA asserts that adult dental Medicaid benefits can be restored without the appropriation of additional funds if the Department of Human Services can achieve cost savings of less than one-half of one percent of the current appropriation for HMS401.**

## II. GENERAL FUND SURPLUS AND FISCAL FLEXIBILITY

It should also be noted that the Governor has significant discretionary authority to shift funds for budgeting purposes. SECTION 76 of Act 49, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, states:

10       SECTION 76. Unless otherwise provided in this Act, the  
11       governor is authorized to transfer operating funds between  
12       appropriations within the same fund, within an expending agency,  
13       for operating purposes.

In the case of HMS401, this language would suggest that the Governor could transfer surplus General Funds to HMS401 to supplement the operational funds appropriated for Medicaid.

According to the Governor's six-year financial plan, it is estimated that the State will experience a General Fund surplus of between \$654,900,000 and \$829,100,000 for Fiscal Year 2019.<sup>4</sup> The total funding requested to reinstate adult dental Medicaid benefits ( $\$4,704,480 + \$7,066,720 = \$11,771,200$ ), amounts to between 1.7% (of \$654,900,000) and 1.4% (of \$829,100,000) of the estimated General Fund carry-over balance.

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<sup>4</sup> Multi-Year Financial Summary, General Fund, Fiscal Years 17-23, Budget in Brief, p. 3.

MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY GENERAL FUND FISCAL YEARS 17 - 23 (in millions of dollars)							
	Actual* FY 17	Estimated FY 18	Estimated FY 19	Estimated FY 20	Estimated FY 21	Estimated FY 22	Estimated FY 23
<b>REVENUES:</b>							
Executive Branch:							
Tax revenues	6,315.2	6,586.8	6,870.0	7,144.8	7,430.6	7,727.8	8,036.9
Nontax revenues	1,003.4	739.5	762.1	805.9	841.6	856.9	873.9
Judicial Branch revenues	33.0	36.5	37.2	37.8	38.3	38.9	39.5
Other revenues	0.0	(33.9)	(6.8)	26.4	28.0	27.0	25.9
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>7,351.6</b>	<b>7,328.9</b>	<b>7,662.5</b>	<b>8,014.8</b>	<b>8,338.5</b>	<b>8,650.7</b>	<b>8,976.3</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
Executive Branch:							
Operating	7,036.6	7,248.4	7,442.9	7,789.8	8,028.6	8,214.0	8,402.8
CIP	14.3	10.5	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2
Specific appropriation/CB	503.6	112.8	239.5	294.7	352.1	367.6	367.6
Other expenditures/adjustments	0.0	(107.8)	8.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
<b>Sub-total - Exec Branch</b>	<b>7,554.5</b>	<b>7,263.9</b>	<b>7,701.6</b>	<b>8,097.8</b>	<b>8,394.0</b>	<b>8,594.8</b>	<b>8,783.6</b>
Legislative Branch	41.1	41.1	41.1	41.1	41.1	41.1	41.1
Judicial Branch	162.3	165.7	171.0	171.8	172.0	172.0	172.0
OHA	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Counties	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lapses	(275.2)	(80.0)	(80.0)	(80.0)	(80.0)	(80.0)	(80.0)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>7,485.6</b>	<b>7,393.6</b>	<b>7,836.7</b>	<b>8,233.7</b>	<b>8,530.1</b>	<b>8,730.9</b>	<b>8,919.7</b>
<b>REV. OVER (UNDER) EXPEND.</b>	<b>(134.0)</b>	<b>(64.7)</b>	<b>(174.2)</b>	<b>(218.8)</b>	<b>(191.6)</b>	<b>(80.3)</b>	<b>56.6</b>
<b>CARRY-OVER BALANCE (DEFICIT)</b>							
Beginning	1,027.8	893.8	829.1	654.9	436.0	244.4	164.2
Ending	893.8	829.1	654.9	436.0	244.4	164.2	220.8
<b>GF reserves (5% of prior yr revenues)</b>	<b>354.1</b>	<b>367.6</b>	<b>366.4</b>	<b>383.1</b>	<b>400.7</b>	<b>416.9</b>	<b>432.5</b>
<b>END BAL LESS GF RESERVES</b>	<b>539.7</b>	<b>461.5</b>	<b>288.4</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>(156.3)</b>	<b>(252.8)</b>	<b>(211.8)</b>
<i>EBRF (add'l \$1M FY16, \$201.4M FY17)</i>	311.3	319.7	328.3	336.8	345.3	353.8	362.3
<i>EBRF fund balance as % of prior yr revenues</i>	4.40%	4.35%	4.48%	4.40%	4.31%	4.24%	4.19%

\* unaudited

Note: Due to rounding, details may not add to totals.



### **III. SURPLUS MEDICAID FUNDS, HOUSING AND HOMELESS SERVICES, AND THE 1115 WAIVER**

The HPCA wishes to bring to your attention another point that would appear to have bearing on this issue. On August 29, 2017, the Department of Human Services requested an amendment to the Hawaii QUEST Expanded Medicaid Section 1115 Demonstration *"to provide supportive housing services under the Medicaid program for qualified beneficiaries or physical illness or a substance abuse diagnosis"*.<sup>5</sup> As we understand it, the resources for this new program would come from existing funds found within HMS401.

The HPCA applauds the Department's innovative thinking in creating new ways of leveraging existing funds and resources to help solve Hawaii's homelessness crisis. We are confident that the Department of Human Services can take a similar approach to find the resources needed to restore this essential benefit without a new appropriation.

For these reasons, the HPCA asks this Committee to amend the bill by directing the Department of Human Services to expend \$4,704,480 in General Funds and \$7,066,720 in Federal Funds for Fiscal Year 2019, that were appropriated in HMS401 **solely for the reinstatement of adult dental Medicaid coverage**, and to report statistical data on the number of recipients served to the next Legislature.

As an alternative, this language could be converted into a proviso and inserted into the Supplemental Budget Bill, House Bill No. 1900.

For your consideration, attached please find the proposed House Draft 1.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

attachment

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<sup>5</sup> Letter to Ms. Heather Ross, Project Officer, Division of State Demonstration Group, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, from Director Pankaj Bhanot, Department of Human Services, RE: AMENDMENT TO THE HAWAII QUEST EXPANDED MEDICAID SECTION 1115 DEMONSTRATION (11-W-00001/9), dated August 29, 2017.

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, in response to the  
2       State's receipt of a failing grade of "F" in a series of recent  
3       oral health report cards released by The Pew Center on the  
4       States, a more concerted effort needs to be made to address oral  
5       health in Hawaii, especially in underserved communities.

6       According to the department of health in its "Hawaii Oral  
7       Health: Key Findings" report of September 25, 2015:

8       (1) Eighty-two per cent of high-income adults in Hawaii  
9       see a dentist each year, as compared to only fifty-two  
10      per cent of low-income adults;

11      (2) Fifty-one per cent of low-income adults lost teeth due  
12      to dental disease, compared to only thirty-two per  
13      cent of high-income adults;

14      (3) Only forty-one per cent of pregnant women in Hawaii  
15      reported seeing a dentist during their pregnancy from  
16      2009 to 2011, with low-income women and women in the

1           medicaid program among the lowest estimated groups of  
2           receiving care;

3           (4) In 2012, there were more than three thousand emergency  
4           room visits due to preventable dental problems,  
5           representing a sixty-seven per cent increase from  
6           2006, significantly higher than the national average,  
7           and these visits accounted for \$8,500,000 in total  
8           expenditures by the State, more than double the  
9           \$4,000,000 spent in 2006; and

10          (5) Only eleven per cent of Hawaii's residents receive  
11          fluoridated drinking water, as compared to seventy-  
12          five per cent for the United States as a whole.

13          The legislature finds that these figures represent that  
14          oral health in the State is a pervasive and expensive public  
15          health crisis that needs to be addressed, especially in low-  
16          income and underserved populations.

17          In response to these glaring disparities and inadequacies,  
18          the department of health posited eight key strategies for  
19          rebuilding the State's dental public health infrastructure,  
20          including:



- 1 (1) Continuing to support and expand affordable and  
2 accessible preventive dental care services to Hawaii's  
3 low-income populations;
- 4 (2) Expanding medicaid dental services for adults beyond  
5 the current coverage for "emergencies only" to include  
6 preventive and treatment services;
- 7 (3) Considering increasing reimbursements to dental  
8 providers for key preventive or restorative procedures  
9 to increase participation in medicaid; and
- 10 (4) Developing strategies to reduce barriers to finding  
11 and receiving preventive dental care services for  
12 children enrolled in the medicaid program.

13 The legislature finds that it is in the best interest of  
14 the State to expand access to coverage by restoring basic adult  
15 dental benefits to medicaid enrollees.

16 The legislature further finds that the State's federally  
17 matched medicaid program forms an essential support for  
18 underserved individuals by offering insurance options for low-  
19 income citizens, in addition to other social service programs.

20 The legislature further finds that restoring basic adult dental

1 benefits would be in line with the intent of the department of  
2 health, allowing for individuals to eat properly, work  
3 productively, improve mental health well-being, and increase  
4 attendance and participation in school.

5 SECTION 2. The legislature also finds that funding for  
6 Hawaii's medicaid program is appropriated within line item  
7 HMS401 in the Executive Budget, as enacted as Act 49, Session  
8 Laws of Hawaii 2017. The objective of this line item is to  
9 "ensure that qualified low-income and disabled individuals and  
10 families are provided health care services, including medical,  
11 dental, hospital, nursing home, home and community-based, and  
12 other professional services, either through a fee-for-service or  
13 QUEST-managed care program." Since fiscal year 2015, the  
14 legislature has appropriated more than \$904 million in general  
15 funds each year into HMS401. Also, in addition to general funds,  
16 special funds, federal funds, other federal funds, and  
17 interdepartmental transfers were appropriated into HMS401.

18 In 2018, the department of human services requested  
19 \$4,704,480 in general funds, and \$7,066,720 in federal funds for  
20 fiscal year 2019, to restore adult dental medicaid benefits,



1 including preventative and restorative oral health services. To  
2 put this request into perspective, \$4,704,480 in general funds  
3 requested is less than one-half of one percent of the  
4 \$944,108,598 in general funds that had already been appropriated  
5 into HMS401. Also, when one considers the general funds and  
6 federal funds requested together ( $\$4,704,480 + \$7,066,720 =$   
7  $\$11,771,200$ ), the total amount requested would be closer to  
8 four-tenths of one percent of the total funds appropriated into  
9 HMS401.

10 Accordingly, the legislature asserts that adult dental  
11 medicaid benefits can be restored without the appropriation of  
12 additional funds if the department of human services can achieve  
13 cost savings of less than one-half of one percent of the current  
14 appropriation for HMS401.

15 Also, the legislature acknowledges that the governor has  
16 significant discretionary authority to shift funds for budgeting  
17 purposes. Among other things, the governor could transfer  
18 surplus general funds to HMS401 to supplement the operational  
19 funds for medicaid.

1 Furthermore, according to the governor's six-year financial  
2 plan, it is estimated that the State will experience a general  
3 fund surplus of between \$654,900,000 and \$829,100,000 for fiscal  
4 year 2019. The total funding requested to reinstate adult  
5 dental medicaid benefits  $((\$4,704,480 + \$7,066,720 =$   
6  $\$11,771,200)$ , amounts to between 1.7 percent (of \$654,900,000)  
7 and 1.4 percent (of \$829,100,000) of the estimated general fund  
8 carry-over balance.

9 In light of this, the purpose of this Act is to require the  
10 department of human services to expend funds appropriated in  
11 HMS401 for the reinstatement of adult dental medicaid coverage.

12 SECTION 3. Act 49, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, is amended  
13 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
14 read as follows:

15 "SECTION . Provided that of the appropriations for  
16 health care payments (HMS401), \$4,704,480 in general funds or so  
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019, and  
18 \$7,056,720 in federal funds or so much thereof as may be  
19 necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019, shall be expended solely  
20 for the restoration of adult dental benefits which include

1 preventative and restorative oral health services; and provided  
2 further that the director of human services shall submit a  
3 report to the legislature at least twenty days prior to the  
4 convening of the regular session of 2019 that shall include but  
5 not be limited to:

6 (1) The number of recipients receiving adult dental  
7 benefits pursuant to this section; and

8 (2) A projection of the number of eligible medicaid  
9 beneficiaries who would be eligible to receive adult  
10 dental benefits during fiscal biennium 2019-2021,  
11 pursuant to this section."

12 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underlined.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.  
14

**Report Title:**

Medicaid, adult dental, budget proviso language

**Description:**

Requires the department of human services to expend \$4,704,480 in general funds and \$7,056,720 in federal funds that were appropriated pursuant to Act 49, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017 (HMS401), solely for the restoration of adult dental medicaid benefits; and requires the director of human services to report to the 2019 Legislature on the number of recipients receiving adult dental benefits and a projection of the number of eligible medicaid beneficiaries who would be eligible to receive adult dental benefits during fiscal biennium 2019-2021.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*



February 9, 2018  
8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: HB2152 Relating to Human Services

AlohaCare is **in strong support** of HB2152, which appropriates funds to DHS to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees and requires DHS to obtain the maximum federal matching funds available for this expenditure.

AlohaCare is a non-profit, Hawaii based health plan founded in 1994 by Hawaii's community health centers. We serve Medicaid and Medicare Special Needs beneficiaries in all counties.

Adult Medicaid enrollees currently do not receive preventive or routine dental care and are offered a limited benefit of extractions and emergency-only coverage. AlohaCare believes that restoring the basic adult dental benefits will help to reduce health care costs. The provision of this benefit is an investment that prevents more costly care in the long-term.

Studies have increasingly shown the direct correlation between oral health and overall health and wellness. Poor oral health can be linked to chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. According to the Department of Health 2015 "Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings" report, low income adults and pregnant women are less likely to visit a dentist.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**HB-2152**

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 12:36:39 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana Shaw	Lanai Community Health Center	Support	No

## Comments:

Aloha Kakou - HB 2152 appropriates funds to the DHS to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid and QUEST integration enrollees. Oral health in our state is a public health crisis, with Hawaii receiving a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report card released by The Pew Center for the States. Restoring basic adult dental benefits would help to address this crisis. In addition, a 2015 Department of Health report entitled Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings revealed the a shortfall in the area of dental benefits, including:

- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults.
- 51% of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, compared to only 32% of high-income adults.
- In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000 compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006.

Medicaid does not provide any preventive oral healthcare for adults, only emergency dental (extraction or pain management). Adult Medicaid enrollees have no coverage for preventive or routine dental care, and this lack of access has a negative impact on one's health, especially for individuals with chronic diseases such as coronary disease and diabetes. In addition, because of the lack of coverage, many low-income adults only seek dental care for acute conditions that have been allowed to reach a crisis stage.

Oral Health is critical to the overall health of all individuals -- I strongly support this bill and ask that you also support and fund it. Mahalo, Salamat, Diana M V Shaw, PhD, MPH, MBA, FACMPE, Executive Director, Lanai Community Health Center



**HO'OLA LĀHUI HAWAI'I**  
*P.O. Box 3990; Līhu'e, Hawai'i*  
*Phone: 808.240.0100 Fax: 808.246.9551*

February 8, 2018

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of HB 2152**  
**Relating to Oral Health**

**Friday February 9, 2018 8:30 AM Room 329**

Ho'ola Lahui Hawaii the only Federally Qualified Health Center and Native Hawaiian Health Care System on Kauai is strongly **SUPPORTING** this bill to restore adult dental benefits for those on Medicaid.

Dental care is vital to the over health of individuals. Nearly 50% of all adults aged 30 or older have some form of gum disease according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and adult cavities is on the rise. Around 90% of all adults have had a cavity and 1 in 4 adults have untreated cavities.

It is vital to support the dental benefit restoration to Medicaid for those who are most in need. Prevention will save millions of dollars in restorative care services in the long term.

If patients are not in pain, they can eat healthier and have a more positive outlook they are more likely to gain employment and be more productive. Since 2009 when this benefit was removed, we have witnessed increasing numbers of individuals who are in dire need of care.

This is the single most important bill currently in the legislature to our patients. We strongly encourage the committee to pass this bill and restore benefits to those most in need.

Respectfully Requested,

David Peters  
Chief Executive Officer

**HB-2152**

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 12:53:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-2152**

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 12:58:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Kilgore	Full Life	Support	No

## Comments:

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and the Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Jim Kilgore and I am the Executive Director at Full Life. Full Life is a Hawai'i Island non-profit organization working to assist in the empowerment of people with disabilities and their families to live self-determined lives.

I support HB2152 being heard on February 9, 2018 at 8:30AM.

HB 2152 appropriates funds to the DHS to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid and QUEST integration enrollees. Oral health in our state is a public health crisis, with Hawaii receiving a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report card released by The Pew Center for the States. Restoring basic adult dental benefits would help to address this crisis. In addition, a 2015 Department of Health report entitled Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings revealed the a shortfall in the area of dental benefits, including:

- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults.
- 51% of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, compared to only 32% of high-income adults.
- In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000 compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006.

Medicaid does not provide any preventive oral healthcare for adults, only emergency dental (extraction or pain management). Adult Medicaid enrollees have no coverage for preventive or routine dental care, and this lack of access has a negative impact on one's health, especially for individuals with chronic diseases such as coronary disease and diabetes. In addition, because of the lack of coverage, many low-income adults only seek dental care for acute conditions that have been allowed to reach a crisis stage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Kilgore

**HB-2152**

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 1:04:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Self Advocates		Support	Yes

## Comments:

My name is Renee Manfredi and I am the President of the Self Advocacy Advisory Council. We have nearly 200 members statewide. Our members represent individuals with disabilities and we are in strong support to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees. Without basic dental, we are forced to wait until we are in pain and there is an emergency before Medicaid will pay for dental. By then, they will only pull our teeth. Several of my peers have ended up in the ER for this and had to be sedated to have their teeth pulled, costing Medicaid over a thousand dollars. This is much more expensive than basic dental. Please restore basic dental benefits. Thank you for this opportunity to provide strong support for HB2152.

**HB-2152**

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 2:39:46 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Teresa Belardo		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. This is a much needed service in the community. Please pass this bill.



## Hawaii Dental Association

**LATE**

To: The House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. February 9, 2018  
Location: Capitol Conference Room 329  
Re: HB 2152, Relating to Human Services

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the committee! My name is Dr. Robert Baysa and I serve as the president of the Hawaii Dental Association, a professional association comprised of approximately 950-member dentists. The Hawaii Dental Association (HDA) is a statewide professional membership organization representing dentists practicing in Hawaii and licensed by the State of Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners. 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.

HB 2152 appropriates funds for adult dental Medicaid benefits. It acknowledges that “oral health in the State is a pervasive and expensive public health crisis that needs to be addressed, especially in low-income and underserved populations.” This bill is an important step toward promoting oral health in our community and we strongly support it.

Please advance this measure.

**LATE**



Ke Ola Mamo  
Native Hawaiian Health Care System, O'ahu

February 8, 2018

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of HB 2152**  
**Relating to Oral Health**

**Friday February 9, 2018 8:30 AM Room 329**

Ke Ola Mamo the Native Hawaiian Health Care System for the Island of O'ahu is strongly **SUPPORTING** this bill to restore adult dental benefits for those on Medicaid.

Dental care plays an integral role in the health and wellness of those individuals who are in most need. It is important to support dental benefits as this will provide individuals to healthier and improved lives.

We have encountered many individuals who need dental care and over the years have experienced the increase in health conditions associated with the lack of dental care.

This is an important bill that would benefit our patients as well other entities who provide dental care to those on Medicaid. We strongly encourage support of this bill and ask that the committee consider its importance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joelene K. Lono  
Executive Director

1505 Dillingham Blvd. Room 205  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**LATE**



Hawaii  
Dental Hygienists' Association

February 8, 2018

House Committee on Health and Human Services

**HB 2152**

Ellie Kelley-Miyashiro, RDH, BS

Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association, Regulations and Practice Chairperson

Chairperson Chairperson Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association (HDHA) fully supports **HB 2152**. We would like to congratulate you on your leadership in initiating this important discussion during this legislative session. Having one of the worst dental decay rates in the nation, Hawaii's underserved adults can only benefit from legislation such as this.

**HB 2152** appropriates funds to the DHS to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid and QUEST integration enrollees. Oral health in our state is a public health crisis, with Hawaii receiving a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report card released by The Pew Center for the States. Restoring basic adult dental benefits would help to address this crisis. In addition, a 2015 Department of Health report entitled Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings revealed the a shortfall in the area of dental benefits, including:

- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults.
- 51% of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, compared to only 32% of high-income adults.
- In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000 compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006. Medicaid does not provide any preventive oral healthcare for adults, only emergencydental (extraction or pain management). Adult Medicaid enrollees have no coverage for preventive or routine dental care, and this lack of access has a negative impact on one's health, especially for individuals with chronic diseases such as coronary disease and diabetes. In addition, because of the lack of coverage, many low-income adults only seek dental care for acute conditions that have been allowed to reach a crisis stage.

As the largest association representing Hawaii's licensed dental hygienists', HDHA strongly **supports HB2152** to address the prevention of dental disease among Hawaii's people.

Thank you for your consideration.





**HB-2152**

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 7:44:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/9/2018 8:30:00 AM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nancy partika	personal-self	Support	No

Comments:

February 9, 2018

Bill: HB 2152, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

Committee: House Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee

Aloha Representative Mizuno, Representative Kobayashi and Members of the House Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee.

My name is Nancy Partika, RN, MPH, and I am offering my personal testimony today in strong support for HB2152, which proposes to appropriate funds to the DHS to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid and QUEST integration enrollees.

There are over 375,000 Medicaid enrollees in Hawaii (*June 2017 DHS statistics*), with the majority being those over the age of 20 with virtually no preventive or restoration benefits provided to them to support and maintain their oral health.

Recent oral health data gathered indicates that Medicaid recipients are significantly more likely than persons with dental health insurance to need dental work to be done, dental work; know that they need dental care but do not go; lack a regular dentist they go to; report that they were unable to be seen by a dentist because of their lack of acceptable insurance status; be unable to have an oral health condition addressed because they were required to pay prior to treatment, and do not prioritize dental visits because seeing a dentist without accepted insurance is costly (*BSH 2017 Oral Health Disparities survey*).

This and other emerging data (disproportionately more ER visits among Medicaid recipients for oral health problems) indicates that Medicaid recipients are the largest and most visible population in Hawaii at this time with significant oral health disparities in their oral health status, lacking access to needed basic care.

It is time for all of us to recognize and respond to the fact that oral health and overall health status are conclusively linked. If we want all of our citizens to be healthy and productive, we must support their access to preventive and restorative oral health care. Ignoring the oral health needs of this population is negligent and ultimately costly.

Hawaii needs to work towards the goal of all persons on Medicaid having a comparable dental coverage plan to anyone else to meet their oral health needs, with equitable access to available oral health services. The direct and indirect benefits of ensuring oral health access for all residents will have positive overall personal health and productivity impacts as well.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this important public health issue.

# Petition to Submit Testimony in Support of

**LATE**

Petition summary and background:	<p>As Registered Dental Hygienists in the state of Hawaii, we are in SUPPORT of HB2152.</p> <p>An oral health report card released by The PEW Center for the States, has given Hawaii a failing grade of "F" in three recent reports. There is a public health crisis in regards to oral health in our state.</p> <p>We can help to address this crisis by restoring basic adult dental benefits and help to reduce unnecessary emergency room visits by providing preventive oral healthcare before it becomes a problem.</p>
Action petitioned for:	<p>We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to SUPPORT HB2152 and allow everyone to have access to care.</p>

Printed name	Email Address	Comment	Date
Shirley Chun, RDH	<a href="mailto:scpinksky@gmail.com">scpinksky@gmail.com</a>		
Jamie Tengan, RDH	<a href="mailto:jamzan10@gmail.com">jamzan10@gmail.com</a>		
Faye Fox, RDH	<a href="mailto:fnf1464@gmail.com">fnf1464@gmail.com</a>		
Darlee Motosue, RDH	<a href="mailto:dkmotosue@yahoo.com">dkmotosue@yahoo.com</a>		
Audra Dennis, RDH	<a href="mailto:oceanbreeze@gci.net">oceanbreeze@gci.net</a>		
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Crystal Egusa, RDH	<a href="mailto:cegusa@gmail.com">cegusa@gmail.com</a>		

Printed name	Email Address	Comment	Date
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Donna Christman, RDH	<a href="mailto:dchristman76@gmail.com">dchristman76@gmail.com</a>		
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Jan Migita, RDH	<a href="mailto:migitajans@gmail.com">migitajans@gmail.com</a>		
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Jackie Sawai, RDH	<a href="mailto:jackiesawai@gmail.com">jackiesawai@gmail.com</a>		
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Stacie Okihara, RDH	<a href="mailto:skye_lar@hotmail.com">skye_lar@hotmail.com</a>		
Jaimie Yuen, RDH	<a href="mailto:jyuen001@hawaii.rr.com">jyuen001@hawaii.rr.com</a>		
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Samantha Boroff, RDH	<a href="mailto:boroff.212@osu.edu">boroff.212@osu.edu</a>		

Printed name	Email Address	Comment	Date
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Carly Takara, RDH	<a href="mailto:cftakara@gmail.com">cftakara@gmail.com</a>		
Gayle Chang, RDH	<a href="mailto:gchang50@gmail.com">gchang50@gmail.com</a>		
Nicole Pikini, RDH	<a href="mailto:nicole.pikini64@gmail.com">nicole.pikini64@gmail.com</a>		
Mikiel Lina Agoy, RDH	<a href="mailto:m.linardh@gmail.com">m.linardh@gmail.com</a>		
Allie Jefferies, RDH	<a href="mailto:alliejefferiesrdh@gmail.com">alliejefferiesrdh@gmail.com</a>		
Carolyn Nacapuy, RDH	<a href="mailto:battulayan@yahoo.com">battulayan@yahoo.com</a>		
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February 8, 2018

To: The Honorable Chair John Mizuno  
House Committee on Health & Human Services

From: 'Ohana Health Plan  
Scott Sivik; State President

Re: HB 2152, Relating to Human Services; **In Support**  
February 9, 2018; Conference Room 329

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'Ohana Health Plan ('Ohana) is a member of the WellCare Health Plans, Inc.'s ("WellCare") family of companies and provides healthcare for Hawai'i residents statewide. Since 2009, 'Ohana has utilized WellCare's national experience to develop a Hawai'i -specific care model that addresses local members' healthcare and health coordination needs. By focusing on the state's Medicaid and Medicare population, 'Ohana serves Hawaii's most vulnerable residents: low-income, elderly, disabled, and individuals with complex medical issues. Our mission is to help our members' lead better, healthier lives.

'Ohana Health Plan offers our **support** of HB 2152, which restores basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

Poor oral health is one of the most important issues facing our state, particularly with the Medicaid population. While oral health can often be overlooked, there is a clear relationship between preventative dental care and the deterrence of serious medical conditions. The investment to restore basic adult dental benefits for Medicaid enrollees would be relatively small in comparison to the downstream cost savings to the entire healthcare system.

We strongly urge the passage of HB 2152. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.