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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE AN ORAL HEALTH  
TASK FORCE TO REVIEW INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF ORAL  
HEALTH IN THE STATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE  
ORAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, the State is unable to meet the dental public  
2 health needs of its residents; and

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4           WHEREAS, the adult Medicaid population in the State has  
5 limited access to dental care; and

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7           WHEREAS, statewide emergency department data analyzed from  
8 calendar years 2016-2020 shows that a significant number of the  
9 State's adult Medicaid population use emergency facilities as  
10 their "dental care home", which is an ineffective method of  
11 dental care and a misuse of resources; and

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13           WHEREAS, in 2021, approximately 42,000 people of all ages  
14 and all types of health insurance were served by federally  
15 qualified health centers for dental care needs; and

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17           WHEREAS, while the Department of Health operates five small  
18 dental clinics that serve individuals who are elderly, blind,  
19 intellectually disabled, developmentally disabled, and mentally  
20 ill, the clinics are all located in the City and County of  
21 Honolulu; and

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23           WHEREAS, the State does not operate dental clinics to serve  
24 similar populations on the neighbor islands; and

25  
26           WHEREAS, while there are over 288,000 adults with Medicaid  
27 dental benefits, there is a lack of dental providers for this  
28 population, with only three hundred thirty-nine dentists who  
29 currently accept and treat adults on Medicaid; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, only eleven percent of the State's dental  
3 providers serve one hundred or more persons who receive Medicaid  
4 assistance; and

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6 WHEREAS, while the Legislature allocated over \$25,000,000  
7 in 2022 to reinstate adult Medicaid dental benefits, there is a  
8 concern that the current oral health infrastructure is  
9 insufficient to deliver oral health services to those most in  
10 need; now, therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
14 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
15 Health is requested to convene an Oral Health Task Force to  
16 review information on the status of oral health in the State and  
17 make recommendations to improve oral health infrastructure in  
18 Hawaii; and

19  
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
21 comprise the following members:

- 22  
23 (1) One representative of the Family Health Services  
24 Division of the Department of Health, to be appointed  
25 by the Director of Health;  
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27 (2) One representative of the Developmental Disabilities  
28 Division of the Department Of Health, to be appointed  
29 by the Director of Health;  
30  
31 (3) One representative of the Med-QUEST Division of the  
32 Department of Human Services, to be appointed by the  
33 Director of Human Services;  
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35 (4) One representative of the Student Services Branch of  
36 the Department of Education, to be appointed by the  
37 Superintendent of Education;  
38  
39 (5) One representative of the Hawaii Oral Health  
40 Coalition, to be appointed by the President of the  
41 Senate;  
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- 1 (6) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Association,  
2 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
3 Representatives;
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- 5 (7) One representative of Hawaii Dental Service, to be  
6 appointed by the President of the Senate;
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- 8 (8) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Service  
9 Foundation, to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
10 House of Representatives;
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- 12 (9) One representative of the Hawaii dental Medicaid  
13 insurer, to be appointed by the President of the  
14 Senate;
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- 16 (10) Two community advocates for Medicaid and oral health,  
17 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
18 Representatives and President of the Senate,  
19 respectively;
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- 21 (11) One representative of the Hawaii State Council on  
22 Developmental Disabilities, to be appointed by the  
23 Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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- 25 (12) One representative of the Hawaii Primary Care  
26 Association, to be appointed by the President of the  
27 Senate;
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- 29 (13) One representative of the Native Hawaiian Health Care  
30 Systems, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House  
31 of Representatives;
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- 33 (14) One representative of Papa Ola Lokahi, to be appointed  
34 by the President of the Senate;
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- 36 (15) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Hygienists'  
37 Association, to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
38 House of Representatives;
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- 40 (16) One representative of the County of Hawaii, who is a  
41 Department of Health employee or community oral health



1 representative, to be appointed by the President of  
2 the Senate;

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4 (17) One representative of the County of Maui, to be  
5 appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
6 Representatives;

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8 (18) One representative of the County of Kauai, to be  
9 appointed by the President of the Senate;

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11 (19) A faculty member of the University of Hawaii at Manoa  
12 Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing dental hygiene  
13 program, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House  
14 of Representatives; and

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16 (20) One representative of the University of Hawaii John A.  
17 Burns School of Medicine, to be appointed by the  
18 President of the Senate; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
21 include the following in its study:

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23 (1) A review of all existing information and data relating  
24 to oral health status in Hawaii, including the Hawaii  
25 Oral Health Coalition 2022-2023 environmental scan,  
26 for evidence of key oral health issues and evident  
27 areas for action;

28  
29 (2) A review of all existing information and data relating  
30 to the Department of Health public dental health  
31 functions and program processes and recommendations  
32 regarding organizational structure, personnel needs,  
33 contracted service needs, required resources, and  
34 potential additional funding and support;

35  
36 (3) A review and analysis of systemic issues in oral  
37 health services and processes statewide and  
38 recommendations on systemic changes and improvements  
39 to improve equity in oral health; and

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41 (4) The feasibility of expanding community service  
42 licensure requirements to:



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- (A) Include community health centers as eligible organizations at which those with a community service license may practice;
- (B) Allow dental hygiene and dental college graduates who have graduated from educational programs recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation to apply for temporary or community service licenses; and
- (C) Include passage of the Integrated National Board of Dental Examination within five years of the date of request as proof of eligibility for a community service license; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force is further requested to:

- (1) Develop an oral health strategic blueprint that includes goals, objectives, specific actions, and resources needed;
- (2) Act as a systemic facilitator for key oral health stakeholders so that complex and problematic issues can be discussed and addressed in a timely and effective manner;
- (3) Ensure that there are agreed-upon community metrics for analyzing the development and implementation of Medicaid funding for oral health; and
- (4) Make recommendations to state and county policymakers regarding systemic actions recommended to improve oral health in Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and

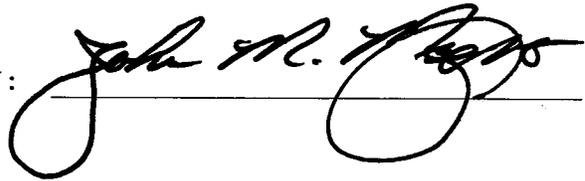


# H.C.R. NO. 32

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health;  
3 Director of Human Services; Superintendent of Education; Mayors  
4 of the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai; Dean of the John A.  
5 Burns School of Medicine; Dean of the Nancy Atmospera-Walch  
6 School of Nursing; Chair of the Hawaii State Council on  
7 Developmental Disabilities; Chair of the Hawaii Oral Health  
8 Coalition; President of the Hawaii Dental Association; President  
9 and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Dental Service; Chief  
10 Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association; Chief  
11 Executive Officer of Papa Ola Lokahi; and President of the  
12 Hawaii Dental Hygienists Association.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Burns", is written over a horizontal line.

MAR - 2 2023

