
HOUSE 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

3
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

16
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

22
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
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1 WHEREAS, only eleven percent of the State's dental
2 providers serve one hundred or more persons who receive Medicaid
3 assistance; and
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5 WHEREAS, while the Legislature allocated over \$25,000,000
6 in 2022 to reinstate adult Medicaid dental benefits, there is a
7 concern that the current oral health infrastructure is
8 insufficient to deliver oral health services to those most in
9 need; now, therefore,
10

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
13 Session of 2023, that the Department of Health is requested to
14 convene an Oral Health Task Force to review information on the
15 status of oral health in the State and make recommendations to
16 improve oral health infrastructure in Hawaii; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
19 comprise the following members:
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- 21 (1) One representative of the Family Health Services
22 Division of the Department of Health, to be appointed
23 by the Director of Health;
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- 25 (2) One representative of the Developmental Disabilities
26 Division of the Department Of Health, to be appointed
27 by the Director of Health;
28
- 29 (3) One representative of the Med-QUEST Division of the
30 Department of Human Services, to be appointed by the
31 Director of Human Services;
32
- 33 (4) One representative of the Student Services Branch of
34 the Department of Education, to be appointed by the
35 Superintendent of Education;
36
- 37 (5) One representative of the Hawaii Oral Health
38 Coalition, to be appointed by the President of the
39 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;
15
- 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;
24
- 25 (12) One representative of the Hawaii Primary Care
26 Association, to be appointed by the President of the
27 Senate;
28
- 29 (13) One representative of the Native Hawaiian Health Care
30 Systems, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House
31 of Representatives;
32
- 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 Honolulu, who is a
41 Department of Health employee or community oral health



1 representative, to be appointed by the House of the
2 Representatives;

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4 (17) One representative of the County of Hawaii, who is a
5 Department of Health employee or community oral health
6 representative, to be appointed by the President of
7 the Senate;

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9 (18) One representative of the County of Maui, to be
10 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives;

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13 (19) One representative of the County of Kauai, to be
14 appointed by the President of the Senate;

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16 (20) One representative of the County of Kalawao, who is a
17 Department of Health employee or community oral health
18 representative, to be appointed by the House of
19 Representatives;

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21 (21) A faculty member of the University of Hawaii at Manoa
22 Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing dental hygiene
23 program, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House
24 of Representatives; and

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26 (22) One representative of the University of Hawaii John A.
27 Burns School of Medicine, to be appointed by the
28 President of the Senate; and

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

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33 (1) A review of all existing information and data relating
34 to oral health status in Hawaii, including the Hawaii
35 Oral Health Coalition 2022-2023 environmental scan,
36 for evidence of key oral health issues and evident
37 areas for action;

38
39 (2) A review of all existing information and data relating
40 to the Department of Health public dental health
41 functions and program processes and recommendations
42 regarding organizational structure, personnel needs,



1 contracted service needs, required resources, and
2 potential additional funding and support;

3
4 (3) A review and analysis of systemic issues in oral
5 health services and processes statewide and
6 recommendations on systemic changes and improvements
7 to improve equity in oral health; and

8
9 (4) The feasibility of expanding community service
10 licensure requirements to:

11
12 (A) Include community health centers as eligible
13 organizations at which those with a community
14 service license may practice;

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16 (B) Allow dental hygiene and dental college graduates
17 who have graduated from educational programs
18 recognized by the American Dental Association
19 Commission on Dental Accreditation to apply for
20 temporary or community service licenses; and

21
22 (C) Include passage of the Integrated National Board
23 of Dental Examination within five years of the
24 date of request as proof of eligibility for a
25 community service license; and

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force is further requested
28 to:

29
30 (1) Develop an oral health strategic blueprint that
31 includes goals, objectives, specific actions, and
32 resources needed;

33
34 (2) Act as a systemic facilitator for key oral health
35 stakeholders so that complex and problematic issues
36 can be discussed and addressed in a timely and
37 effective manner;

38
39 (3) Ensure that there are agreed-upon community metrics
40 for analyzing the development and implementation of
41 Medicaid funding for oral health; and
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1 (4) Make recommendations to state and county policymakers
2 regarding systemic actions recommended to improve oral
3 health in Hawaii; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the oral health task force is
6 requested to submit an interim report of its findings and
7 recommendations to the legislature no
8 later than December 1, 2024; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health is
11 requested to submit a final report of the oral health task
12 force's findings and recommendations, including any proposed
13 legislation, no later than December 1, 2025; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health; Director of
17 Human Services; Superintendent of Education; Mayors of the
18 counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai; Dean of the John A. Burns
19 School of Medicine; Dean of the Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of
20 Nursing; Chair of the Hawaii State Council on Developmental
21 Disabilities; Chair of the Hawaii Oral Health Coalition;
22 President of the Hawaii Dental Association; President and Chief
23 Executive Officer of the Hawaii Dental Service; Chief Executive
24 Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association; Chief Executive
25 Officer of Papa Ola Lokahi; and President of the Hawaii Dental
26 Hygienists Association.
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