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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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is requested 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; and

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

- (1) One representative of the Family Health Services Division of the Department of Health, to be appointed by the Director of Health;
- (2) One representative of the Developmental Disabilities Division of the Department Of Health, to be appointed by the Director of Health;
- (3) One representative of the Med-QUEST Division of the Department of Human Services, to be appointed by the Director of Human Services;
- (4) One representative of the Student Services Branch of the Department of Education, to be appointed by the Superintendent of Education;
- (5) One representative of the Hawaii Oral Health Coalition, to be appointed by the President of the Senate;

- 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 Honolulu, who is a  
41 Department of Health employee or community oral health  
42 representative, to be appointed by the House of the  
43 Representatives;  
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1 (17) One representative of the County of Hawaii, who is a  
2 Department of Health employee or community oral health  
3 representative, to be appointed by the President of  
4 the Senate;

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6 (18) One representative of the County of Maui, who is a  
7 Department of Health employee or community oral health  
8 representative, to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
9 House of Representatives;

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11 (19) One representative of the County of Kauai, who is a  
12 Department of Health employee or community oral health  
13 representative, to be appointed by the President of  
14 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;

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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,  
43 contracted service needs, required resources, and  
44 potential additional funding and support;



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

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

(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



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the oral health task force is  
2 requested to submit an interim report of its findings and  
3 recommendations to the legislature no  
4 later than December 1, 2024; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health is  
7 requested to submit a final report of the oral health task  
8 force's findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
9 legislation, no later than December 1, 2025; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health;  
13 Director of Human Services; Superintendent of Education; Mayors  
14 of the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai; Dean of the John A.  
15 Burns School of Medicine; Dean of the Nancy Atmospera-Walch  
16 School of Nursing; Chair of the Hawaii State Council on  
17 Developmental Disabilities; Chair of the Hawaii Oral Health  
18 Coalition; President of the Hawaii Dental Association; President  
19 and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Dental Service; Chief  
20 Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association; Chief  
21 Executive Officer of Papa Ola Lokahi; and President of the  
22 Hawaii Dental Hygienists Association.  
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