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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ORAL HEALTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's oral health  
2 program is not meeting the needs of residents. Unlike forty-two  
3 other states, the State's department of health does not have  
4 dedicated oral health staff to assess and monitor the  
5 population's oral health status, community needs, and assets;  
6 inform and educate people about oral health; mobilize community  
7 partners to leverage resources; develop, champion, and implement  
8 policies, laws, and plans that support oral health efforts;  
9 reduce barriers to care; assure a competent and skilled public  
10 and private oral health workforce; and improve public oral  
11 health functions through ongoing evaluation and continuous  
12 quality improvement.

13           The legislature further finds that the adult medicaid  
14 population has limited access to dental care. While there are  
15 over 288,000 adults with medicaid dental benefits, there is a  
16 lack of dental providers for this population. Additionally,  
17 while federally qualified health centers in each county are a



1 critical medical and oral health safety net, in 2021, about  
2 forty-two thousand people of all ages and covered by all types  
3 of health insurance were served by the health centers.

4 The legislature additionally finds that while the  
5 department of health operates five small dental clinics and  
6 serves individuals who are elderly, blind, intellectually  
7 disabled, developmentally disabled, and mentally ill at the  
8 Hawaii state hospital, all clinics are located in the city and  
9 county of Honolulu. The State does not operate dental clinics  
10 to serve similar populations on the neighbor islands. The  
11 legislature notes that three hundred thirty-nine dentists in the  
12 State currently accept and treat adults on medicaid.

13 While the legislature allocated over \$25,000,000 in 2022 to  
14 reinstate adult medicaid dental benefits, the legislature is  
15 concerned that the current oral health infrastructure is  
16 insufficient to deliver oral health services to those most in  
17 need.

18 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 19 (1) Establish an oral health task force to review  
20 information and data on the status of oral health in



1 the State and make recommendations to improve the  
2 State's oral health infrastructure; and

3 (2) Appropriate funds to help facilitate the work of the  
4 oral health task force.

5 SECTION 2. (a) There is established an oral health task  
6 force to be placed within the family health services division of  
7 the department of health for administrative purposes.

8 (b) The oral health task force shall:

9 (1) Review all existing information and data relating to  
10 oral health status in Hawaii, including the Hawaii  
11 Oral Health Coalition 2022-2023 environmental scan,  
12 for evidence of key oral health issues and evident  
13 areas for action;

14 (2) Review all existing information and data relating to  
15 the department of health's oral health program  
16 functions and processes and make recommendations  
17 regarding organizational structure, personnel needs,  
18 contracted service needs, required resources, and  
19 potential additional funding and support;

20 (3) Review and analyze systemic issues in oral health  
21 services and processes statewide and make



- 1            recommendations on systemic changes and improvements  
2            to improve equity in oral health;
- 3            (4) Develop an oral health strategic blueprint that  
4            includes goals, objectives, specific actions, and  
5            resources needed;
- 6            (5) Act as a systemic facilitator for key oral health  
7            stakeholders to ensure that complex and problematic  
8            issues are discussed and addressed in a timely and  
9            effective manner;
- 10           (6) Ensure that there are agreed-upon community metrics  
11           for analyzing the development and implementation of  
12           medicaid funding for oral health; and
- 13           (7) Make recommendations to state and county policymakers  
14           regarding systemic actions recommended to improve oral  
15           health in Hawaii.
- 16           (c) The oral health task force shall consist of the  
17 following members:
- 18           (1) One representative of the family health services  
19           division of the department of health, to be appointed  
20           by the director of health;



- 1           (2) One representative of the developmental disabilities  
2           division of the department of health, to be appointed  
3           by the director of health;
- 4           (3) One representative of the med-QUEST division of the  
5           department of human services, to be appointed by the  
6           director of human services;
- 7           (4) One representative of the student services branch of  
8           the department of education, to be appointed by the  
9           superintendent of education;
- 10          (5) One representative of the Hawaii Oral Health  
11          Coalition, to be invited by the president of the  
12          senate;
- 13          (6) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Association,  
14          to be invited by the speaker of the house of  
15          representatives;
- 16          (7) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Service, to be  
17          invited by the president of the senate;
- 18          (8) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Service  
19          Foundation, to be invited by the speaker of the house  
20          of representatives;



- 1           (9) One representative of a Hawaii dental medicaid  
2           insurer, to be invited by the president of the senate;
- 3           (10) Two community advocates for medicaid and oral health,  
4           one each to be invited by the speaker of the house of  
5           representatives and president of the senate,  
6           respectively;
- 7           (11) One representative of the state council on  
8           developmental disabilities, to be appointed by the  
9           speaker of the house of representatives;
- 10          (12) One representative of the Hawaii Primary Care  
11          Association, to be invited by the president of the  
12          senate;
- 13          (13) One representative of the Native Hawaiian Health Care  
14          Systems, to be invited by the speaker of the house of  
15          representatives;
- 16          (14) One representative of Papa Ola Lokahi, to be invited  
17          by the president of the senate;
- 18          (15) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Hygienists'  
19          Association, to be invited by the speaker of the house  
20          of representatives;



1 (16) 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;

5 (17) One representative of the county of Maui, to be  
6 appointed by the speaker of the house of  
7 representatives;

8 (18) One representative of the county of Kauai, to be  
9 appointed by the president of the senate;

10 (19) A faculty member of the university of Hawaii at Manoa  
11 Nancy Atmospera-Walch school of nursing's dental  
12 hygiene program, to be appointed by the speaker of the  
13 house of representatives;

14 (20) One representative of the university of Hawaii John A.  
15 Burns school of medicine, to be appointed by the  
16 president of the senate; and

17 (21) One dentist from each county, to be invited by the  
18 chairperson of the task force.

19 (d) The representative of the family health services  
20 division of the department of health shall serve as the  
21 chairperson of the task force. If the representative of the



1 family health services division of the department of health is  
2 unable to serve as the chairperson of the task force, the  
3 members of the task force shall select a chairperson from among  
4 the remaining members.

5 (e) The oral health task force shall submit an interim  
6 report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature no  
7 later than December 1, 2024. The department of health shall  
8 submit, pursuant to section 321-63, Hawaii Revised Statutes, a  
9 final report of the oral health task force's findings and  
10 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
11 legislature no later than December 1, 2025.

12 (f) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2026.

13 (g) The family health services division of the department  
14 of health may contract for the services of a consultant to  
15 facilitate the work of the oral health task force, including  
16 drafting the interim and final reports required pursuant to  
17 subsection (e).

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
21 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal



1 year 2024-2025 for the family health services division of the  
2 department of health to administer a contract to hire a  
3 consultant to facilitate the work of the oral health task force,  
4 including completing the interim and final reports required by  
5 subsection (e) of section 2 of this Act.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
7 of health for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
11 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
12 year 2024-2025 for the establishment of one permanent full-time  
13 equivalent (1.0 FTE) program specialist IV position and one  
14 permanent full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) program specialist V  
15 position within the family health services division of the  
16 department of health to oversee the contract to hire a  
17 consultant to facilitate the work of the oral health task force  
18 to strengthen the oral health program in the State.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
20 of health for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;  
2 provided that sections 3 and 4 of this Act shall take effect on  
3 July 1, 2051.



**Report Title:**

Oral Health; Task Force; Department of Health; Positions;  
Reports; Appropriations

**Description:**

Establishes an oral health task force to review the status of oral health in the State and make recommendations to improve the State's oral health infrastructure. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050 and 7/1/2051. (SD2)

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

