

JAN 21 2026

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER FLUORIDATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that drinking fluoridated  
2 water is a safe and cost-effective way to reduce cavities and to  
3 help protect against tooth decay. Drinking water with the  
4 optimal fluoride concentration helps keep teeth strong and  
5 reduces tooth decay by approximately twenty-five per cent. For  
6 this reason, most states and many countries, including  
7 Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Singapore, require  
8 fluoridation, or the addition of fluoride, in their public water  
9 systems.

10 In Hawaii, only military bases currently add fluoride to  
11 their water supplies, meaning that approximately eighty-nine per  
12 cent of the State's residents lack access to the benefits of  
13 fluoridated drinking water. The legislature believes that this  
14 contributes to the State's high prevalence of tooth decay, which  
15 affects many adults and approximately seventy per cent of  
16 Hawaii's children.



1       The legislature also recognizes that many of the State's  
2    residents receive minimal to no routine dental care. Many  
3    residents do not have dental insurance, and medicaid managed  
4    care plans cover dental services for children but not for  
5    adults. As a result, the State's hospitals experience thousands  
6    of visits per year for dental emergencies that routine dental  
7    care would likely have prevented. The legislature believes that  
8    requiring fluoridation in the State's public water supplies will  
9    help support residents' oral health in the absence of, or in  
10   addition to, other dental care services.

11       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 12       (1)    Require certain private and government-owned suppliers  
13           of water to adjust the level of fluoride in the  
14           supplier's public water system to match the optimal  
15           fluoride level for community water fluoridation, as  
16           established by the United States Department of Health  
17           and Human Services;
- 18       (2)    Require each supplier of water to conduct periodic  
19           tests of water fluoridation and to report the findings  
20           to the department of health; and



4 SECTION 2. Chapter 340E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
6 designated and to read as follows:

7        "§340E-        Water fluoridation; testing; report.        (a)    Each

8        private or government-owned supplier of water in the State

9        having one thousand or more service connections shall adjust the

10      level of fluoride in the supplier's public water system to meet

11      the optimal fluoride level for community water fluoridation, as

12      established by the United States Department of Health and Human

13      Services; provided that this section shall not apply to any

14      federal agency operating a public water system in the State.

**15** (b) Each supplier of water shall:

16 (1) Monitor and sample, at intervals established by the  
17 department, the level of fluoride in the supplier's  
18 water system: and

19 (2) Report the results of the sampling to the department.

20 (c) The department shall provide technical assistance and  
21 training relating to community water fluoridation and the



1 management of fluoridation systems to each supplier of water  
2 that is subject to this section.

3 (d) The department shall submit a report of its findings  
4 and recommendations on statewide fluoride concentration levels,  
5 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later  
6 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular  
7 session."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: SKS



# S.B. NO. 2073

**Report Title:**

HHS; DOH; Water Fluoridation; Water Testing; Reports

**Description:**

Requires certain suppliers of water in the State to adjust the fluoride levels in the supplier's public water system to meet the optimal fluoride level for community water fluoridation, as established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Requires suppliers to test water systems for fluoride levels, at intervals established by the state Department of Health. Requires the Department of Health to provide training to suppliers on the implementation of water fluoridation. Requires the Department of Health to submit annual reports to the Legislature.

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

