

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



DEPT. COMM. 100-290  
KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.P.H., M.G.A.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

December 29, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura,  
Speaker  
and Members of the House of  
Representatives  
Thirty-third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Annual Report of Dental Health Activities, Expenditures, and Recommendations to the Legislature, pursuant to Chapter 321, Section 63, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at:

<https://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/department-of-health-reports-to-2026-legislature/>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Fink".

Kenneth S. Fink, M.D., M.P.H., M.G.A.  
Director of Health

Enclosures

c: Legislative Reference Bureau  
Hawaii State Library System (2)  
Hamilton Library

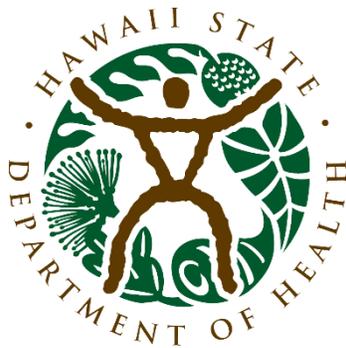
**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE**

**STATE OF HAWAI'I**

**2026**

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 321-63  
HAWAI'I REVISED STATUTES**

**REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON DENTAL HEALTH  
ACTIVITIES, EXPENDITURES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**



**PREPARED BY:**

**STATE OF HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
HEALTH RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION  
FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION**

**DECEMBER 2025**

**2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**  
**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DIVISION**  
**HOSPITAL & COMMUNITY DENTAL SERVICES BRANCH**

**Executive Summary:**

The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH), Hospital & Community Dental Services Branch (HCDSB) is the only state-operated public health program in Hawai'i that provides direct dental treatment services for the community. The HCDSB primarily serves individuals with disabilities and other special needs who have limited or no access to private sector dental care. The Branch is part of the Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD).

In compliance with HRS §321-63(5), the DOH submits an annual report to the Legislature detailing dental activities, plans, measures, expenditures, and recommendations.

**Program Objective:**

The HCDSB offers comprehensive safety-net dental care services to vulnerable and underserved populations in Hawai'i who have little to no access to dental treatment. The clinics primarily serve adult Medicaid participants who are classified as aged, blind, or disabled, as well as those with severe chronic mental illness, elderly individuals who are medically fragile, and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Without HCDSB services, these populations would otherwise be unable to receive dental care through private dental providers or community health centers.

**Program Activities:**

**Direct Dental Services**

Dental services are provided by HCDSB personnel to patients residing at state institutions such as the Hawai'i State Hospital and the Kalaupapa Settlement, as well as to patients living in the community. The HCDSB operates five dental clinics on O'ahu, located at the DOH's Health Centers: Diamond Head, Lanakila, Leeward, Windward, and the Hawai'i State Hospital. Currently, there are no HCDSB dental clinics on the neighbor islands.

In fiscal year 2025, the HCDSB provided clinical services to 1,119 individuals and completed a total of 11,706 dental procedures. The patients served by HCDSB clinics included:

43%	Persons with a mental health condition
45%	Persons with an intellectual/developmental disability
10%	Persons aged 65 years and older
19%	Hawai'i State Hospital patients

## **Community Collaboration**

### **Community Activities**

The HCDSB has collaborated with various state, nonprofit, and educational institutions to improve access to dental care and address oral health disparities in Hawai'i. This effort involved coordinating programs aimed at enhancing the community dental infrastructure, including initiatives like the teledentistry (virtual dental home), dental sealant program, and outreach programs to improve oral health education.

The HCDSB collaborated with various programs including, but not limited to:

- Queen's Medical Center, Dental Clinic and General Practice Dental Residency Program;
- University of Hawai'i, School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene at Mānoa;
- Kapi'olani Community College, Dental Assisting Program;
- Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition;
- Hawai'i Dental Service Foundation;
- Dental Lifeline Network;
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Programs; and
- Head Start Programs.

### **Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition**

The Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition (HOHC) works to improve the overall health and well-being of Hawai'i residents by increasing access to oral health care through collaborative partnerships, advocacy, and education. The Coalition facilitates the exchange of resources and drives systemic change at multiple levels through efforts in advocacy, improved access, workforce development, education, and oral health surveillance.

The HCDSB actively participates in and supports the HOHC and its various working groups, which identify community needs and develop solutions or advocacy strategies to improve oral health care.

HCDSB staff contribute to several of these working groups, including those focused on:

- Community-based care
- Policy
- Workforce development
- Intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)

In addition, the HCDSB Chief represents the Department of Health on the Coalition's Steering Committee.

## **Oral Health Trainings**

In the 2025, fiscal year, the HCDSB utilized both in-person and virtual platforms to deliver oral health education and awareness presentations and trainings. These sessions included a combination of didactic instruction and hands-on (in-person) training and were updated to

incorporate the latest oral health research and evidence-based practices. Approximately 538 individuals participated in the HCDSB's oral health trainings and presentations.

This year's presentations were conducted in collaboration with the following organizations:

- University of Hawai'i, Mānoa
  - School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene
  - John A. Burns, School of Medicine
    - Speech Language Pathologists
- Kapi'olani Community College
  - Dental Assisting Program; and
  - Nursing Program
- Nursing Homes (Collaboration with Hawai'i Dental Foundation through Kupuna Smiles Program)
  - Hale Makua Nursing Home
  - Palolo Chinese Home
  - Maunalani Nursing Home
- Straub Hospital
  - Nurses – ICU
- Developmental Disabilities Division
  - Participants, families, and caregivers (open to the community)
- Other Organizations
  - Association for Professionals in Infection Control – Annual Conference
  - Foster Grandparent Program (Department of Education)
  - Hale Mohalu, Senior Apartments
  - Hawai'i Special Olympics

### **Concerns and Issues Encountered by the Program:**

Oral health disparities remain a significant health concern for Hawai'i residents. Medicaid recipients, low-income individuals, and medically compromised patients face limited access to dental care from private dental providers and even community dental clinics. Many patients are referred to the HCDSB by state public health and social service agencies, as well as private healthcare providers, for dental treatment. However, the HCDSB currently does not operate dental clinics on the neighbor islands, where access to essential emergency dental care, such as for pain relief and infection, is limited. The capacity of Hawai'i community health center dental clinics is also restricted, particularly for individuals with I/DD, who struggle to access care at these facilities.

**Program Recommendations:**

The HCDSB will continue providing dental treatment while collaborating with private sector providers, community health centers, and other oral health stakeholders to raise awareness of the challenges faced by uninsured and underinsured populations in accessing dental care. Additionally, the HCDSB will evaluate oral healthcare models implemented in other states to explore potential solutions for access-to-care challenges in Hawai'i. Advocacy efforts will also continue to support those in need of dental care who currently lack access to these essential services.

**Total HCDSB Budgeted for FY2025:**

**Position Count:** 12.00 FTE\*  
**Personnel Services:** \$1,071,177  
**Other Current Expenses:** \$312,075  
**Total:** \$1,383,252

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**HEALTH RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION**  
**FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION**

The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH), Family Health Services Division (FHSD) is responsible for carrying out the activities and performing the functions provided in Hawai'i Revised Statutes Title 19, Chapter 321, Part V §321-61 to §321-63. Key dental health program activities funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Oral Health Disease Prevention five-year grant (2013-2018) ended on August 31, 2018.

**Ongoing FY25 Oral Health Assurance Activities of Other FHSD Programs/Partnerships:**

- Contract with 16 health service programs (including the Federally Qualified Health Centers) to provide primary care services for the uninsured and underinsured that includes dental treatment services (Office of Primary Care and Rural Health)
- Monitor workforce shortages (including dental services) and establish federal designations for health professional shortage areas (Office of Primary Care and Rural Health)
- FHSD, in partnership with the Hawai'i Health Data Warehouse, developed the Oral Health Data Tracker (2023). This convenient online tool allows users to review data across 30 oral health indicators for children, pregnant women, and adults. (<https://www.hawaiihealthmatters.org/indicators/index/dashboard?alias=OralHealth>)
- FHSD, in partnership with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing, Department of Dental Hygiene; the Hawai'i State Department of Education; the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission; and the Hawai'i Dental Service Foundation, provided the following school-based dental screening and dental sealant services:
  - Distributing Equitable Oral Health Svc to Keiki Across HI Islands (\$96,547)
  - Oral Health Service Deliver in Hawai'i Charter Schools (\$99,518.00)
  - Early Oral Health Prevention for School-Age Keiki (\$98,693.00)(see attached Hawai'i Keiki oral health report)
- FHSD, in partnership with the Hawai'i Public Health Institute and the Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition, expanded oral health coalition activities to improve the oral health status of Hawai'i residents. These activities included a continuing community oral health needs assessment and training and professional development opportunities to increase the capacity of coalition leadership and members. The 2024 Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition Annual Statewide Stakeholder Meeting convened on Thursday, November 7, 2024. (\$99,999).
- FHSD, in partnership with the DOH Hospital & Community Dental Services Branch purchased eight (8) oral care simulator training manikins. DOH purchased the manikins to support oral health education efforts in community and school-based settings. These manikins are intended to be loaned to oral health educators, public health professionals, schoolteachers, community organizations, and dental professionals for use in oral health awareness presentations, trainings, and outreach activities. By providing access to these manikins, the DOH aims to promote interactive, hands-on learning opportunities without placing a financial burden on the educators or organizations using them. The manikins

serve as a valuable training tool and a shared community resource to enhance oral hygiene education. The manikins are available for borrowing on Kaua'i, Maui, O'ahu, and Hawai'i Islands (Hilo & Kona) through the Family Health Services section of each DOH District Health Office. (\$13,837)

- FHSD submitted an FY26 formal budget request to add recurring General Funds for 2.0 permanent positions (Program Specialist V & Program Specialist IV) and funds (\$500,000) to reestablish the mandated State Oral Health Program (HRS §321-61 through 63). This request was approved and signed into law through Act 250 (06/30/2025 – Gov. Msg. No. 1353) beginning July 1, 2025.

**Position Count:** 0 FTE (FY25)

**Total:** \$408,594 (FY25)

**Means of Funding:** State General Funds

**REPORT TO HAWAI'I STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**Submitted by the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn Program**  
**October 26, 2025**

**Project: Providing Oral Health Assessment & Sealant to Hawai'i Public & Charter Schools**  
***Funding Period: May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025***

**Background:**

Oral health is integral to overall health and should not be viewed separately. Unfortunately, far too many keiki in the State of Hawai'i cannot access the oral health care they need and deserve and oral health inequities that are most evident for those with limited income, lack of education as well as for those living in rural/underserved areas of the state. The consequences of poor oral health are far-reaching including the negative oral and overall health effects as well as the unnecessary costs of emergency room visits for preventable oral health conditions.

The Hawai'i Keiki (HK)-Hawai'i Dental Service Foundation (HDS) Sealant Program collaborates with Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) to identify high-need elementary schools that would benefit from dental sealant days. The program brings licensed dentists and dental hygienists directly to the schools, eliminating barriers that families may experience accessing oral healthcare. Funds provided by the Hawai'i State Department of Health (HIDOH), Division of Family Health Services in 2024-2025 allowed the program to expand to additional public schools including those on the Island of Molokai. (See Attachment 1: News Story)

**Outcomes for May 2024 - June 2025 include:**

During the period of funding the HK-HDS dental sealant program for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row increased it reach to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, providing oral health assessments and if needed dental sealants in 89 elementary schools across the state. During these visits 2,141 keiki received oral health assessments and education, while 1,400 (65%) needed and received dental sealants. During this school year 4,595 teeth were sealed. More importantly 124 keiki were identified with urgent dental needs and were successfully referred to a dentist for care within 48 hours. There were also 504 keiki identified with non-urgent dental needs, with communication sent to the families noting the importance of their follow-up visit with their dental home in a timely fashion. Reaching the neighboring island was a high priority as results indicate a much higher incidence of urgent dental needs for keiki than those living on O'ahu.

The main highlight for this school year was our program's ability to reach the Island of Molokai with all 4 elementary schools (3 HIDOE and 1 public Charter school) receiving services in one day. The providers for the Molokai trip included the O'ahu dental team and Maui's dental team (Hui No Ke Ola Pono) along with Maui HK nursing teams and Molokai HK Health Technicians. This fantastic team screened 104 keiki with 67% of the keiki receiving sealants, 236 teeth sealed and 8 keiki identified with urgent needs and referred for follow-up treatment. This was an amazing success and would not have been possible without HDS funding along with HIDOH funding for dental supplies, Kamaka Air that provided free transport of dental equipment from

Maui to Molokai and Maverick Helicopter that flew the dental team to Molokai at a substantially reduced rate. More than 16 media clips (TV, newspaper and radio) highlighted this event which shows the need for the program and the impact HDS Foundation funding has on our keiki, families and communities. Results from the program since its launch in 2019 demonstrate its growth and impact across the state.

**HK-HDS Sealant Program Outcomes 2019-2025**

	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
<i>Number of Schools</i>	6	14	20	68	77	89	<b>274</b>
<i>Screened</i>	106	193	653	2007	1910	2141	<b>7010</b>
<i>Needed Sealants</i>	51	123	430	1219	1209	1400	<b>4432</b>
<i>Teeth Sealed</i>	172	406	1459	4593	3992	4595	<b>15,217</b>
<i>Urgent</i>	6	5	28	65	56	124	<b>284</b>
<i>Percentage of Screened Keiki Receiving Sealants</i>	48%	64%	65%	61%	63%	65%	<b>63%</b>

The funding received by HODOH was utilized for much-needed supplies allowing for the printing of flyers, consents and other essential oral school visit documents as well as delivery of these items to islands statewide. Consumables such as dental kits, dental provider equipment headlamps and other supplies needed at each event were purchased and fully utilized, allowing optimal care and efficiency in the delivery of these services in schools. Additionally, these funds were used to support the oral health education that was delivered by our oral health and nursing teams at 10 community/school events.

**Project: Early Oral Health Prevention for School-age Keiki**  
**Project: Oral Health Service Delivery in Hawai‘i Charter Schools**  
**Project: Distributing Equitable Oral Health Services to Keiki Across Hawai‘i Islands**  
*Funding Period: May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026*

The HK Oral Health Program noting the significant needs for further prevention services for our keiki in consultation with key stakeholders began the planning for an expansion. Noting the need for additional funding to reach a new age group in HODOE schools and expand further in Charter schools, we sought additional funding for the following project which is currently underway. A brief description of each project and current outcomes include:

*Early Oral Health Prevention for School-age Keiki*

The funding for this project is being utilized to expand current oral health services to include kindergarten assessments, education and referrals to a dental home. This pilot is focusing on kindergarten keiki in those schools currently being reached by the oral health program on the island on O‘ahu with neighbor islands to be added in subsequent year. There is a total of 10,744 keiki currently enrolled in kindergarten across all islands, of which approximately 3,893 attend high need schools on the island of O‘ahu. Oral assessments are currently being conducted by the

## Hawai‘i Keiki Report to HIDOH

HK dental team which includes a dentist, dental hygienist and support staff which include observing and documenting findings (numbers of urgent needs, treated decay and untreated decay) and recommendations (urgent needs/restorative care or routine care). Each parent/guardian has the option to opt out of this service although we have seen to date very few choosing this option. In addition to the assessment, keiki will receive education on oral hygiene and the importance of caring for their teeth and visiting the dentist, along with a dental kit and parent report to take home at the end of the school day.

As of October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the HK dental team completed kindergarten assessments at six O‘ahu schools with a total enrollment of 291 kindergarteners. Of those 291 keiki, 40 were absent and 201 were screened resulting in 83% of parents opting in for this service. For those keiki screened results indicated that 7 had urgent dental needs and 69 required restorative care noting a high percentage (38%) of keiki needing follow-up from a dental provider. In addition to the oral health assessment, each was provided education on proper dental hygiene and what other ways keiki can keep their teeth healthy. At the end of the day, each keiki received a dental kit which included toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, a sticker and report to the parent indicating the service that was delivered and the outcomes and recommendation for further care. Parents of all keiki with urgent needs are contacted by a HK program RDH and/or HK nurse in order to coordinate a visit with their dental home. If the keiki is not yet assigned to a provider, the HK team will provide phone numbers for local providers and/or Community Case Management for Medicaid recipients in order to arrange for a visit as soon as possible and ideally in 24-48 hours.

Funding for this project allows HK personnel to organize the newly launched events, distribution of packet and provider messages to schools and communities as well as staff to provide the school-based kindergarten keiki oral assessments and education and when needed communicate to those parents needing to connect with their dental home for follow-up treatments.

### *Oral Health Service Delivery in Hawai‘i Charter Schools*

The funding for this project is being utilized to expand current oral health services to additional Charter schools currently served by the Hawai‘i Keiki School-based Health Program in addition to HODOE public schools that have yet to be reached in previous years either due to changes in administration or lack of interest at that time. The Hawai‘i Keiki School-based health program currently serves 12 schools with clinic staff, telehealth capacity, health technician and nursing support personnel.

To date the HK dental program has scheduled visits with five Charter Schools with hopes to increase those numbers over time. Those Charter Schools on O‘ahu will receive oral health assessments for 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> graders and sealants if needed as well as oral health assessments and education for their kindergarten classes.

Funding for this project allows HK personnel to organize, collaborate with Charter schools, provide messages to schools and communities, distribute packets to schools and then provide the school-based kindergarten keiki oral assessments and 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade oral assessments and if needed dental sealants. In addition, for those keiki noted to have urgent dental needs, the dental

professional will reach out to the parents/guardian to assure that their keiki is seen by a community dental provider in a timely fashion and if needed locate a provider in their community.

*Distributing Equitable Oral Health Services to Keiki Across Hawai‘i Islands*

The funding for this project is being utilized to provide clinic supplies, travel for core dental staff on O‘ahu to provide these services to high need schools on our neighbor islands. These funds will also support our oral health program personnel who are integral in the process of consent distribution, collection and data entry. For the 2025-26 school year the dental team will be reaching 35+ schools on the neighbor islands. Our current partnership with Hui No Ke Ola Pono allows us to provide nursing and not dental support as the community health center travel out to the school to provide the direct services. We currently have dental providers also on Hawai‘i Island and Kaua‘i although there are days when they are unable to support the program. Therefore, this funding is also allowing our O‘ahu dental team to travel to those schools on neighbor islands to maximize the reach in addition to assure the dental team as well as support staff are providing high quality evidence-based care and following the HK oral health policies and procedures set forth by the program leadership.

To date the dental team has travelled (two times - Maui and Molokai) and for the school year the dental team (1-3 staff each visit) are planning on visiting neighbor islands an additional 18-20 times to facilitate dental visits in elementary schools on Hawai‘i Island, Maui, Kaua‘i and Molokai.

Funding for this project ensures accurate data collection and uploading of information into the proper electronic records at public schools. Additionally, this data is also critical for our reporting of outcomes to schools, communities, funders and state leaders. Due to workforce shortages of dental providers on neighboring islands, the O‘ahu dental team will be required to travel to provide assistance with many of the school events except Maui which is currently served through a contract with Hui No Ke Ola Pono Community Health Center. These funds also support the program by offsetting some of the costs for equipment, materials and supplies as the programs increase it reach to more schools.

*Improving Vaccine Compliance for School-Age Keiki*

Hawai‘i Keiki (HK): Healthy and Ready to Learn Program partners with Vaccines for Children (VFC) to provide vaccines at no cost to eligible children who may not otherwise be vaccinated. Vaccines are stored, managed and administered by HK Nurse Practitioners who work closely with the HIDOE, Hawai‘i State Department of Health Disease Outbreak and Control Division Immunizations Branch, and primary care providers in a coordinated effort to provide care for students and their families. Funding provided for this project is being utilized to expand vaccine services with a focus on high need schools with low vaccine compliance.

The HK program currently offers vaccines by four APRN providers on two islands (Hawai‘i Island, O‘ahu) with an expansion of 1 site on O‘ahu this coming month and an additional 2 sites (Hawai‘i Island, Kaua‘i) in Spring 2026. The workload required for health visits/vaccines to be conducted by the APRN includes registering the student into the electronic medical record (EMR) system (EPIC), scheduling of appointments, contacting families for vaccines approval

## Hawai'i Keiki Report to HIDOH

and checking their consents, assisting with the APRN with the vaccine visits and then entering vaccines in the Hawai'i Island State Immunization System (HISIS). As of October 27, 2025, 564 students were registered into the EPIC EMR system and 421 were provided appointments with an APRN. A total of 315 families were contacted for vaccine discussion and approval for administration, 118 unique students received vaccines, and 237 vaccines were given. In addition, one specialty health technician (HT) provided education on the EMR system to improve compliance and efficiency of our Hawai'i Keiki RNs, APRNs and HTs. To date there were 299 requests from staff for assistance with EPIC and 220 HK staff have received training.

### Attachment:

1. News story: Molokai students receive no-cost dental services at school

# Molokai students receive no-cost dental services at school

[nursing.hawaii.edu/molokai-students-receive-no-cost-dental-services-at-school/](https://nursing.hawaii.edu/molokai-students-receive-no-cost-dental-services-at-school/)

For the first time ever, the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn Program hosted Dental Sealant Events on Molokai to provide no-cost dental services for students at school. On Tuesday, April 8, 2025, a team of 9 Oahu- and Maui-based dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant and nurses flew to Molokai to see students at Maunaloa Elementary School, Kilohana Elementary School, Kaunakakai Elementary School and Kualapuu Charter School. Three Molokai-based health technicians provides on-the-ground support.



About 110 students were seen on Tuesday. With prior consent from parents/guardians, students received dental screening, dental sealants if needed, oral health education and a hygiene kit for home.

## Addressing Hawaii's Oral Health Issues

The 2015 Hawaii Smiles report documented that children in Hawaii have the highest prevalence of dental decay

(cavities) in the nation. In addition, more than 60% of children statewide did not have sealants on their permanent molars, increasing their risk for cavities. Children with cavities are known to miss more school days, have difficulty concentrating in school due to pain, and may also have difficulty eating and poor self-esteem compared to their peers without cavities.

In 2019, the Hawaii Keiki – Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) Dental Sealant Program was developed as a partnership between Hawaii Keiki and the Hawaii Dental Service Foundation. The program is a part of the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn Program which is a partnership between the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene and the Hawaii State Department of Education.

The goal of the Hawaii Keiki Dental Sealant Program is to improve the oral and overall health of children by increasing the number of children who receive oral health assessments, education and dental sealants within designated high-need HIDE and Charter Commission elementary schools.

In 2020, the program launched on Oahu and continues to expand with services now also offered in Maui, Kauai and Big Island. Today, the program is excited to bring oral health services to the students on Molokai. Maui and Molokai school-based dental services are provided in partnership with Hui No Ke Ola Pono, a Maui Native Hawaiian Health Care System.

### **Commitment to Rural Underserved Communities**

This event happened because of the on-going grant funding from Hawaii Dental Service Foundation as well as the generous support from Kamaka Air Cargo who donated the transportation of the program's dental equipment from Maui to Molokai and Maverick Helicopters who provided discounted transportation for the staff to get to Molokai from Maui. The State Department of Health – Family Health Division also supported this effort with funding for the purchase of dental supplies.

To date, the program has provided more than 5,500 keiki with an oral health screening and more than 60% of kids needed and received dental sealant, resulting in more than 12,000 teeth being sealed. In addition, more than 220 keiki were identified with urgent dental needs and were successfully referred for treatment by community dental providers.

“Hawaii Keiki is committed to returning to Molokai annually to ensure that students in remote communities have equitable access to dental care,” said Dr. Deborah Mattheus, Hawaii Keiki Senior Practice Director and Dental Sealant Program director. “Hosting the screenings and sealants at school has proven to be an efficient way to provide healthcare to many students at once, reduce the time and money spent by individual families, and minimize the loss of class time. Today’s event is a great example of many partners coming together to provide important dental services to these Molokai kids.”

### **Compassionate Team of University of Hawaii Alumni & Student Providers**



The Hawaii Keiki Dental Sealant Team was composed of licensed dentists, dental hygienists and was supported by Hawaii Keiki nurse practitioners, registered nurses and health technicians. Today's Molokai event was special because the majority of the health providers were alumni from the University of Hawaii's Manoa nursing and dental hygiene programs, Maui dental hygiene and Maui-Molokai certified nursing aide programs. One of the providers is currently a UH Maui College dental hygiene student.

"As a dental hygiene graduate from UH Manoa, today's event was really special for me because I was able to work alongside Dr. Amy Ogawa who also graduated from the dental hygiene program but later became a dentist," said Gerraine Hignite, Oral Health Program Manager. "Dr. Ogawa was my teacher when I was a student and she came out of retirement to work with this program. It is so wonderful to see all of these local UH alumni providers come together to do really amazing work. The best part of today was all of the big smiles from the students."

For more information about the Hawaii Keiki Oral Health Program visit <https://nursing.hawaii.edu/hawaii-keiki/oral-health-program/>.

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Hawaii Keiki – HDS Dental Sealant Program SY 25-26



Date	School Name (2 <sup>nd</sup> grade unless otherwise noted)	Total of Keiki in grade	% Consented	Keiki Screened	Need Sealants	Teeth Sealed	Urgent Need
9/16	Oahu- Honowai EL	69	45	31	23	75	2
9/19	Likelike ES	33	48	16	10	34	2
9/23	Lanakila ES	40	68	27	22	70	0
9/26	Kaahumanu ES	63	46	29	19	55	5
9/30	Lincoln ES	56	52	29	23	70	1
10/2	Kahului ES	108	40	43	36	128	2
10/3	Kaala ES	60	32	19	10	34	0
10/14	Iliahi ES	43	26	11	9	34	0
10/16	Makawao ES	74	30	22	16	55	1
10/17	Royal ES	35	57	20	16	57	2
10/21	Pearl City	47	47	22	14	45	2
10/23	Pomaikai ES	104	35	36	28	99	1
10/23	Kaunakakai ES	39	41	16	10	28	2
10/23	Maunaloa ES	11	64	7	7	16	0
10/24	Pauoa ES	54	30	16	15	50	0
10/24	Kilohana ES	14	57	8	7	16	0
10/24	Kualapuu PCS	46 <sup>2nd</sup> 47 <sup>3rd</sup>	52	48	34	112	8
10/28	Kauluwela ES	62	48	30	25	75	3
10/30	Lihikai ES	101	50	51	43	157	8
11/3	Pahala ES	26	13	4	3	10	0
11/3	Naalehu ES	45	29	13	9	29	1
11/4	Pearl Harbor ES	52 <sup>2nd</sup> 38 <sup>3rd</sup>	22	24	14	47	1
11/6	Wailuku ES	83	29	24	20	62	5
11/7	Kapaa ES	133	20	27	16	57	0
11/14	Hokulani ES	46	43	20	15	44	0
11/14	Kaumana ES	28 <sup>2nd</sup> 39 <sup>3rd</sup>	15	10	8	26	0
11/17	Koloa ES	51	27	14	7	23	0
11/18	Keaau ES	144	35	51	30	97	2
11/18	Palolo ES	46	15	7	4	6	0
11/21	Kamalii ES	49	18	9	8	27	0

11/24	Lehua ES	32	28	9	8	26	0
11/24	Mountain View ES	71	27	19	9	26	0
11/25	Paia ES	76	24	18	14	50	1
Total	34 schools			760	551	1805	50

\*\*73% of students screened received sealants

\*Color Key: Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Hawaii Island, Kauai

# HAWAII' I KEIKI

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## HAWAII KEIKI ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL ASSESSMENT AND EDUCATION REPORT SY25-26

Date	School	Enrollment	Screened	Absent	Urgent	Non-Urgent	None
9/19/25	Likelike ES	41	24	14	3	11	10
9/23/25	Lanakila ES	49	35	2	2	3	30
9/26/25	Kaahumanu ES	72	45	14	1	15	29
9/30/25	Lincoln ES	48	37	5	1	17	19
10/14/25	Iliahi ES	48	37	4	0	13	24
10/17/25	Royal ES	33	23	1	0	10	12 (Note-1 unable to tolerate procedure)
10/21/25	Pearl City ES	49	39	3	0	6	33
11/5/25	Pauoa ES	57	49	2	2	3	39
11/7/25	Hauula ES	61	49	6	0	11	38
11/14/25	Hokulani ES	48	38	4	0	3	35
11/18/25	Palolo ES	33	28	2	2	9	17
11/21/25	Lehua ES	40	24	8	0	7	17 (Note-1 unable to tolerate procedure)
12/2/25	Kahuku ES	24	12	2	0	3	9
12/5/25	Kaohao PCS	41	23	2	0	4	20
12/9/25	Ala Wai ES	57	39	6	4	9	26 (Note-3 unable to tolerate procedure)

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12/11/25	Kauluwela ES	57	46	6	0	25	21
Total	17	807	588	84	15	160	412 5 unable