

JAN 18 2008

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DENTAL HEALTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii's public  
2 elementary school children have tooth decay rates that nearly  
3 double those documented in all of the other states. For native  
4 Hawaiian and Filipino children, the rate of tooth decay is even  
5 higher. Poor oral health among children and vulnerable adult  
6 populations is among the most widespread and pressing challenges  
7 identified in Hawaii. Dental disease, including tooth decay, is  
8 Hawaii's silent epidemic. It causes pain, suffering, loss of  
9 productivity at school and work, and becomes more expensive to  
10 treat the longer the decay or disease is left untreated. In  
11 addition to negatively affecting one's quality of life, dental  
12 disease and tooth decay are also catalysts to other life-  
13 threatening systemic diseases and infections.

14           There is a dramatic documented variance in Hawaii between  
15 children attending military base schools whose water is  
16 fluoridated and children in non-military base schools. While  
17 many factors affect dental health, the fact that Hawaii's



1 military base water systems are optimally fluoridated is  
2 considered the major factor contributing to the superior oral  
3 health found among military base elementary school children.  
4 When dental health statistics from Hawaii's military bases are  
5 not used in the calculations, Hawaii ranks last in oral health  
6 in the United States.

7 Over four hundred million people in over sixty countries  
8 presently receive the benefits of optimally fluoridated drinking  
9 water. This figure includes more than one hundred seventy  
10 million people in the United States in thousands of communities,  
11 and approximately sixty-five per cent of the total United States  
12 population. Every recent United States surgeon general has  
13 recommended optimally fluoridating water. More than one hundred  
14 health organizations, including the American Medical Association  
15 and the World Health Organization, support water fluoridation.  
16 Between 2000 and 2004, more than one hundred twenty-five United  
17 States communities in thirty-six states have voted to adopt  
18 fluoridation programs. The Centers for Disease Control and  
19 Prevention has proclaimed community water fluoridation as one of  
20 the ten great public health achievements of the 20th century.

21 Fluoridation is safe and cost effective. Community water  
22 fluoridation in the United States has a record of safety and



1 effectiveness dating back over fifty years. Despite claims to  
2 the contrary, years of critical scientific research has not  
3 demonstrated an association between fluoridation and acute or  
4 long-term health problems. It is considered among the most  
5 socially equitable and cost-effective public health measures  
6 ever implemented. The benefits of fluoridated drinking water  
7 include a sixty to sixty-five per cent reduction in tooth decay.  
8 Our communities would further benefit from this substantial  
9 reduction in tooth decay by lower private and public health care  
10 costs and dental insurance premiums. Those in greatest need in  
11 our community will benefit the most. The United States Centers  
12 for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the lifetime  
13 cost to benefit ratio of community water fluoridation is 1:80;  
14 every dollar spent on fluoridation will save eighty dollars in  
15 health care costs. The average annual cost of community water  
16 fluoridation is estimated to be about one dollar per person per  
17 year. The lifetime cost per person is less than a single dental  
18 filling.

19 All drinking water systems in Hawaii contain a low level of  
20 naturally occurring fluoride. The adjusted concentration  
21 recommended to effectively improve oral health is 0.7 parts per  
22 million. In relative terms, this minute amount may be viewed as



1 equivalent in length to one inch in 20.8 miles, in time, to one  
2 minute in 2.6 years, in money, to one penny in \$13,000, and in  
3 per cent, to 1/13,000th of one per cent.

4 The purpose of this Act is to effectuate the  
5 recommendations of the Maui Health Initiative Task Force  
6 established pursuant to Act 219, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, by  
7 establishing a pilot program in Maui county that will promote  
8 oral health in our communities by adjusting the amount of  
9 naturally occurring fluoride in the water to the optimum level  
10 that will benefit oral health.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 340E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§340E- Water fluoridation pilot program. (a) There is  
15 established a water fluoridation pilot program to be  
16 administered by the director in Maui county. The director shall  
17 administer the program to all other communities at the option  
18 and request of each requesting community.

19 (b) At any time that the fluoride content of water served  
20 by the public water system in an area specified under subsection  
21 (a) is less than 0.7 parts per million of fluoride, the  
22 department shall add a measured amount of fluoride to the water



1 so as to maintain a fluoride content that is in accordance with  
2 the water fluoridation guidelines issued by the United States  
3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

4 (c) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91  
5 to effectuate this section."

6 SECTION 3. The department of health shall submit a report  
7 to the legislature evaluating the efficacy of the water  
8 fluoridation pilot program no later than twenty days prior to  
9 the convening of each regular legislative session in which the  
10 program is administered.

11 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 for  
14 the establishment and administration of the water fluoridation  
15 pilot program in Maui.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
17 health for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
20 provided that section 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2008; and



S.B. NO. 2416

1 provided further that this Act shall be repealed on July 1,  
2 2015.

3

INTRODUCED BY: S. S. T. V.

4/Alani Egler

Quayle & Bell



**Report Title:**

Oral Health; Water Fluoridation; Maui Pilot Program;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the department of health to establish and administer the water fluoridation pilot program in Maui county to adjust the amount of naturally occurring fluoride in the water to a level that will benefit oral health. Makes appropriations.

