



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

February 29, 2012

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2605, S.D.1 - RELATING TO ORAL HEALTH**
Hearing: Wednesday, February 29, 2012; 9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to: Part I - require the Department of Health to educate the public about issues that affect children's oral health and establish an electronic system to track data relating to children's dental health; and Part II - authorize the Department of Human Services to determine the fees payable to dentists who provide dental services to QUEST and the QUEST expanded access program participants based on a specified percentage of fees and appropriate funds to increase payments for dental services to individuals in QUEST and QUEST Expanded Access.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the overall concept of this bill as it includes initiatives supportive of our goals and objectives but we are concerned about the cost implications of Part II of this proposal. The Department does already provide full dental coverage for children up to 21 years of age and has a contract with an organization that is responsible to assist with access to dental services.

The Department would like to note that dental rates were revised in 2007 and again in 2010 to increase reimbursement rates for Neighbor Island dentists based on a legislative appropriation. Unfortunately the increase in rates for Neighbor Island dentists has not resulted in an increase in access to dental providers on the Neighbor Islands.

The DHS defers to the Department of Health on Part I of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



HPCA

HAWAI'I PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee Ways and Means

The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair

The Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2605 S.D. 1

Relating to Oral Health

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

February 29, 2012, 9:15 a.m. Room 211

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, **supports the intent** of Senate Bill 2605 Senate Draft 1. It is estimated that over a third of Hawaii's population is considered dentally underserved, a number that encompasses a considerable number of children. Recent reports have suggested that many children in the Med-QUEST program do not receive even a single annual dental visit.

For these reasons we support the intent of this bill and urge you to pass this measure forward for further consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.