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# 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 most states are not  
2 doing enough to prevent tooth decay, unnecessarily driving up  
3 health care costs for families and taxpayers. A new report by  
4 the Pew Center on the States, *Falling Short: Most States Lag on*  
5 *Dental Sealants*, grades all fifty states on their efforts to  
6 prevent decay by improving access for low-income children to  
7 sealants, clear plastic coatings applied to the chewing surfaces  
8 of molars. In the report, states were graded based on four  
9 indicators: having sealant programs in high-need schools;  
10 allowing hygienists to place sealants in school-based programs  
11 without requiring a dentist's exam; collecting data regularly  
12 about the dental health of schoolchildren and submitting it to  
13 the national oral health surveillance system; and meeting a  
14 national objective on sealants set by the federal government's  
15 Healthy People 2010 goals.

16           Hawaii was one of only five states to receive a grade of  
17 "F", with a total of one out of eleven possible points. An "F"  
18 grade indicates that a state is lagging far behind in prevention



1 efforts and could be doing more to reduce pain and costs  
2 associated with dental problems. Research shows that providing  
3 dental sealants through school-based programs is a cost-  
4 effective way to reach low-income children, who are at greater  
5 risk of tooth decay.

6 The legislature further finds that school-based dental  
7 sealant programs provide sealants to children who are least  
8 likely to receive them otherwise. Studies have shown that tooth  
9 decay of molars dropped an average of sixty per cent up to five  
10 years after sealant application in a school program. Sealants  
11 also prevent decay at one-third the expense of filling a cavity.

12 States wishing to establish a school-based sealant program  
13 must also explore potential funding avenues. Some states with  
14 school-based dental sealant programs, such as Ohio, receive  
15 funding through the federal Maternal and Child Health Block  
16 Grant. Other funding possibilities may also be available,  
17 including program-generated revenue through collections from  
18 medicaid. The legislature notes that medicaid currently covers  
19 sealants for eligible recipients in Hawaii.

20 The legislature additionally finds that the Pew Center on  
21 the States report noted that Hawaii was one of eight states with  
22 the most restrictions on dental hygienists, the primary



1 practitioners who apply sealants in school-based programs.  
2 Removing unnecessary restrictions on dental hygienists will  
3 eliminate expensive and unnecessary barriers to serving children  
4 in school-based sealant programs.

5 The legislature finds that the State must take proactive  
6 steps to make prevention of tooth decay among Hawaii's children  
7 a top priority.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 9 (1) Require the director of health to participate in the  
10 national oral health surveillance system, a national  
11 database managed by the federal Centers for Disease  
12 Control and Prevention and the Association of State  
13 and Territorial Dental Directors;
- 14 (2) Require the department of health to establish, or  
15 enter into partnerships or agreements to administer, a  
16 school-based dental sealant program in a high-need  
17 demonstration school;
- 18 (3) Require the department of health to report to the  
19 legislature about the department's efforts to  
20 prioritize prevention of tooth decay among the State's  
21 children; and



1           (4) Appropriate funds to establish or enter into  
2           partnerships or agreements to administer a school-  
3           based dental sealant program in a high-need  
4           demonstration school, including plans to implement the  
5           program on a statewide level.

6           SECTION 2. Section 321-63, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7           amended to read as follows:

8           "**§321-63 Director's specific duties and powers.** To carry  
9           out the purposes of this part, the director of health shall:

- 10           (1) Take such action as may be necessary, and authorized  
11           by law, to meet conditions prescribed for  
12           participation in all related federal dental health  
13           programs and the regulations adopted thereunder;  
14           determine qualifications of personnel requiring  
15           professional training and licenses and correlate the  
16           programs of the department with the profession and  
17           related agencies for the proper and efficient  
18           functioning of the department;
- 19           (2) Enter into cooperative arrangements with other  
20           departments, agencies, and institutions, public or  
21           private;



1        (3) Participate in the national oral health surveillance  
2        system, a national database managed by the federal  
3        Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the  
4        Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors;

5        [~~3~~] (4) Submit plans relating to dental health to the  
6        United States Public Health Service and make  
7        application for such federal funds as will assist in  
8        carrying out the purposes of this part;

9        [~~4~~] (5) Accept on behalf of the State and deposit with  
10       the director of finance any grant, gift, or  
11       contribution from the federal government or other  
12       source made to assist in meeting the cost of carrying  
13       out the purposes of this part and expend the same for  
14       such purposes; and

15       [~~5~~] (6) Make an annual report on activities and  
16       expenditures pursuant to this part, including  
17       recommendations for additional plans, measures, or  
18       legislation relating to the purposes of this part."

19       SECTION 3. (a) The department of health shall establish,  
20       or enter into partnerships or agreements to administer, a  
21       school-based dental sealant program in a high-need demonstration



1 school to provide sealants to high-risk students with  
2 susceptible permanent molar teeth.

3 (b) The department of health shall consult with the  
4 department of education; department of human services, med-QUEST  
5 division; federally qualified health centers; community health  
6 centers; and members of the oral health community in  
7 establishing and administering the program. A needs assessment  
8 shall be conducted to determine what area of the State would  
9 best serve as the location of the demonstration school. The  
10 needs assessment may include considerations related to  
11 geographic area; target population, including income level and  
12 school grade; and the number of students eligible for the  
13 program.

14 (c) The department of health shall establish a plan for a  
15 statewide school-based dental sealant program and submit  
16 applications for any federal funds that may be available for the  
17 program.

18 (d) The department of health shall submit a report to the  
19 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
20 the regular session of 2015. The report shall detail the  
21 department's efforts to prioritize prevention of tooth decay  
22 among the State's children, including:



- 1 (1) Progress in implementing the school-based dental  
2 sealant program at the demonstration school;
- 3 (2) Strategies and goals associated with implementing a  
4 statewide school-based dental sealant program;
- 5 (3) Steps taken to secure funding and sustainability of  
6 the statewide school-based dental sealant program;
- 7 (4) The department's plan to meet the United States  
8 Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy  
9 People 2020 oral health objective OH-12, which calls  
10 for 28.1 per cent of the State's six-year-old to nine-  
11 year-old children to have sealants on their permanent  
12 molar teeth; and
- 13 (5) Any recommendations, including proposed legislation,  
14 needed to implement the statewide school-based dental  
15 sealant program.

16 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the  
19 department of health to establish, or enter into partnerships or  
20 agreements to administer, a school-based dental sealant program  
21 in a high-need demonstration school, including plans to  
22 implement the program on a statewide level.



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

3           SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5           SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.





**Report Title:**

School-based Dental Sealant Program

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Health to establish or enter into partnerships or agreements to administer a dental sealant program in a high-need school. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2050. (HB2457 HD1)

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

