
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is in a
2 position to develop a groundbreaking process to address the
3 unmet oral health care needs of its most vulnerable citizens.
4 Significant adverse health and socio-economic conditions exist
5 as a result of untreated oral diseases among Hawaii's most
6 vulnerable populations, especially underserved children,
7 pregnant women, seniors, adults with chronic conditions, people
8 with special care needs, and ethnic minorities, including native
9 Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.

10 Inadequate oral health has a significant socio-economic
11 impact, including increased school absenteeism, lower
12 productivity, lower educational attainment, lower taxable wages
13 and property, and increased dependence on social services.
14 Moreover, poor oral health has a negative impact on the overall
15 health of the population that results in increased health costs
16 for the State.



1 The legislature also finds that there are insufficient
2 measurements of oral health indicators among vulnerable
3 residents in the State, including the incidence and prevalence
4 of dental disease and an understanding of existing resources,
5 including the availability, accessibility, affordability, and
6 acceptability of oral health care. The lack of understanding of
7 the oral health status in the State prevents the development of
8 effective and cost-efficient strategies and public policies to
9 address the oral health care needs of the State's most
10 vulnerable citizens.

11 The purpose of this Act is to support the State's oral
12 health care initiative by requiring the department of health to
13 develop a comprehensive assessment of Hawaii's oral health
14 status and appropriating funds for this purpose.

15 SECTION 2. The department of health shall:

16 (1) Develop a comprehensive assessment of Hawaii's oral
17 health status, including the capacity of existing
18 public and private infrastructure and the health care
19 workforce. The assessment shall include:

20 (A) High performance computing, statistical, and
21 geospatial analysis to better understand gaps



H.B. NO. 1110

- 1 between access to care needs and existing
2 resources;
- 3 (B) Identification and analysis of social
4 determinants of the oral health status of
5 vulnerable populations in the State;
- 6 (C) Assurance that the community representative
7 sample will accurately determine the oral health
8 status of vulnerable populations in the State;
- 9 (D) Access to health care data, including dental care
10 workforce type, language, ethnicity, geographical
11 distribution, and participation in public
12 programs; and
- 13 (E) Assessment of potential economic impact with
14 respect to the oral health status of vulnerable
15 populations in the State;
- 16 (2) Disseminate the assessment and report of the oral
17 health status at a large public forum with the
18 participation of national experts to showcase existing
19 innovative cost-savings models being adopted in other
20 parts of the nation;



H.B. NO. 1110

1 (3) Develop a comprehensive, consensus-building process
2 with diverse stakeholders to formulate public policy
3 recommendations that ensures an inter-professional
4 approach and a broad representation and participation
5 of consumers, health care professionals, and the oral
6 health care industry; and

7 (4) Collaborate with the legislature in developing a
8 comprehensive implementation plan.

9 SECTION 3. The department of health shall submit a report
10 to the legislature, including its findings and recommendations,
11 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
12 session of 2016 of the actions taken to develop a comprehensive
13 assessment of Hawaii's oral health status.

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,500,000 or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
17 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
18 2016-2017 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
20 of health for the purposes of this Act.



H.B. NO. 1110

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Rick A. Pelletti*

 Stanley

JAN 27 2015



H.B. NO. 1110

Report Title:

Oral Health Status; Comprehensive Assessment; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Health to develop a comprehensive assessment of Hawaii's oral health status. Appropriates funds.

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