

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony Commenting SB 792  
RELATING TO DENTAL HEALTH**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 4, 2015

Room Number: Conference Room 414

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill proposes adding a general fund appropriation of of \$1.5 million for fiscal  
2 year 2015-2016 and the same sum for FY 2016-2017 to the Department of Health to implement the  
3 dental health duties described in this bill.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department appreciates the intent of the bill but defers to the Governor's  
5 Executive Budget request and for the Department of Health's appropriations and personnel priorities.  
6 The Department has been able to leverage a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Oral Health Disease  
7 Prevention grant to secure additional resources to achieve steady progress toward the activities  
8 described in this bill including:

- 9 • Completion of Oral Health Surveillance report with identification of data gaps,
- 10 • A summary of Key Findings from the data report with recommendations for consideration,
- 11 • Development of a data surveillance plan,
- 12 • Reporting of updated data to the National Oral Health Surveillance System,
- 13 • Conducting of a third grade oral health screening survey, Hawaii Smiles, in 64 public and charter  
14 schools statewide to collect county and state-level estimates on treated and untreated tooth  
15 decay as well as the prevalence of dental sealants,
- 16 • Establishment of an oral health data advisory group comprised of diverse stakeholders,
- 17 • Development of an oral health policy review report,
- 18 • Development of an environmental scan to collect information and analysis of state oral health  
19 resources including workforce data, safety net services, and other major community and state-  
20 level programs.

21 The Department has also initiated discussions with the national Child Health Dental Project to conduct a  
22 state policy consensus process recommended by the Centers for Disease Control that will convene  
23 diverse stakeholders to develop recommendations for oral health policy and planning.

24 The Department has received substantial technical support and guidance from national oral health  
25 experts to assure progress in building of the state oral public health program. Assistance is being  
26 provided by the CDC Oral Health Division, the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, the  
27 Child Health Dental Project, the American Network of Oral Health Coalitions, and other state dental  
28 health directors.

29 The Department has also collaborated with community stakeholders toward building a strong oral public  
30 health system.

31 The Department continues to recruit for an Oral Health Program Manager (Dental Director) position  
32 funded by the CDC grant.

33 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

34

35 **Offered Amendments:** None



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
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February 4, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health  
Twenty-Eighth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Green and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB 792 - Relating to Dental Health

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS SB 792**. The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the Department of Health to support the State's dental health care initiative for the vulnerable and underserved populations in the State of Hawaii.

The Council applauds the Legislature's proactive approach in addressing the need to develop a comprehensive assessment of the State's dental health status; disseminate an assessment of its findings; and develop a comprehensive, consensus building process to formulate public policy recommendations that ensures an inter-professional approach and a broad representation and participation of consumers, health care professionals, and the dental health community. We believe the proposed amendments to Section 321-62, Hawaii Revised Statutes, on Pages 3 and 4, Items (6) through (8) are integral components to establish a functional infrastructure and dental services system to address the unmet dental care needs for Hawaii's most vulnerable and underserved populations.

We are responsible for the development and implementation of a Five-Year State Plan. Our current State Plan (FY 2012-2016) includes a Goal, "People with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have access to physical and mental health, and medical and dental care, providing opportunities to ensure and maintain their quality of life and ability to provide their own care." This measure would assist in the delivery of an enhanced statewide dental care services by identifying the heaviest areas of needs, providing an array of dental care services, reducing the incidence and prevalence rate of dental diseases, and improving the overall oral health status of Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens.

The Honorable Josh Green  
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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **supporting SB 792.**

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, M.S.W.  
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe  
Chair



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

**SB 792, Relating to Dental Health  
Senate Committee on Health  
Hearing—February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM**

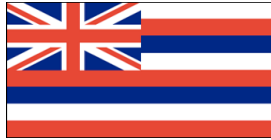
**Dear Chairman Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Health:**

My name is Paula Yoshioka, and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to express my support for SB 792, which would establish and provide funding for the Department of Health to complete a comprehensive assessment of the state's dental health capacity and needs.

Access to basic, preventive dental health care can be a challenge for many families in our community. QHS strives to improve access to these important services through our partnership with the Department of Health to improve the oral health of the state. One way we do this is through the dental clinic located on the Queen's Medical Center-Punchbowl campus, which serves a primarily low-income population. We support efforts by the legislature to assess the current capacities and needs of our community in an effort to promote access to necessary dental services. Increased access to care could also avert the need for some hospitalizations, which benefits our health care system as a whole.

I would ask for your support of this legislation, and ask for your favorable assessment of SB 792. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

*The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*



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February 2, 2015

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 414

**RE: SB792, Relating to Dental Health**

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

SB792 is a good bill. It is good public policy. Please pass it out of the Senate Health Committee.

Hawaii has the dubious distinction of being last, or near last, among the states when it comes to dental health. In particular, the children of poorer people are dramatically and certainly undeservedly, put at risk by Hawaii's current lack of proper dental care. Please note that the DOE now reports that about 52% of the 180,000 students in the public schools qualify for some sort of public assistance. None of these children have adequate dental health care. This bill will not give them what they need, but it will, if passed, identify them, as it will identify other similar at risk groups. This bill is a first step to finally ending the shame of having our state be the place that other states can point to and say, "Well, at least we aren't as bad as Hawaii." Please pass this bill and begin a process that will put an end to a bad, but fixable, problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments.

Sincerely,

John H. Radcliffe  
President

HAWAII STATE SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
February 4, 2015  
Legislative Hearing on S.B. 792  
RELATED TO DENTAL HEALTH

Statement for the Record  
Center for Oral Health  
Conrado Bárzaga MD, Executive Director

Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate you on your leadership in initiating this important discussion of oral health issues during this legislative session. The Center for Oral Health strongly supports S.B. 792, under discussion in the committee today. The Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting public oral health, with a focus on children and other vulnerable populations. The Center for Oral Health partners with national, state, and local entities in developing innovative community-based strategies for improving oral health outcomes. The Center, currently headquartered in Pomona, California, was founded thirty years ago with a mission to improve oral health, especially of vulnerable populations, through innovation, research, education, and advocacy.

The Center focuses on three goals: creating innovative, cost-effective, people-centered solutions to address inadequacies in the oral health system; engaging the wider health care community to increase their oral health knowledge to achieve optimum health outcomes; and collaborating with major stakeholders as their trusted source of oral health expertise, including the U.S Health resources and Services Administration, California Department of Public Health, California Dental Association, the Dental Board of California, Kaiser Permanente, and numerous other organizations. The Center for Oral Health is a committed advocate for addressing dental disease in school-aged children, pregnant women, and seniors, and for the inclusion of dental benefits in all national health reform proposals.

S.B. 792 would address the significant adverse health and socio-economic conditions that exist due to oral diseases that are left untreated among Hawaii's most at-risk populations. . It is critical to establish a baseline measure toward which result-oriented strategies can be devised and measured. This crucial legislation would mandate an assessment that would establish such baseline measure of Hawaii's oral health care needs and resources, and it would ensure the growth and expansion of dental health services to the people of Hawaii. These developments in the dental health field would be critical to citizens of Hawaii who lack proper access to these vital services, and provide cost-saving opportunities to control the cost of healthcare.

S.B. 792 would also provide much-needed resources for dental health for underserved sectors of the Hawaii's population. The requested appropriation would allow for the development of effective strategies to address the dental health crisis of thousands of underserved residents of Hawaii.

I urge the members of the committee to support this far-sighted legislation today, and to work towards its swift passage in the legislature. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for starting a national

conversation on dental care as a crucial component of health care in general, as well as for this historic opportunity to make a difference in the lives of at-risk populations in Hawaii.

I am submitting for the record the following exhibits:

- 1) Improving Access to Oral Health Care for Vulnerable and Underserved Populations. A report of the Institute of Medicine, 2013.
- 2) Advancing Oral Health in America. A report of the Institute of Medicine, 2011.

Thank you for allowing me to chance to submit this testimony and to offer the Center for Oral Health's strong support for S.B. 792.