

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 23, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 27 - MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL
BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES**

Hearing: February 23, 2017, 9:35 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the opportunity to testify on this bill and provides comments. We ask for the Legislature's support of the restoration of adult dental services included in the Governor's budget request.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the DHS to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid and QUEST Integration enrollees.

The DHS appreciates and supports the restoration of a basic oral health benefit for adult Medicaid and QUEST Integration enrollees. We agree that currently oral health in the state is a public health crisis, and that the restoration of a basic adult dental benefit would help address that crisis. The current limited benefit of extractions and emergency-only coverage does not support the goals of whole person care. Lack of access to preventive oral health care has a negative impact on a person's health, especially for individuals with chronic diseases such as coronary disease and diabetes, and for pregnant women and their newborns as a mother's oral health directly impacts her baby.

The basic dental benefit would include up to \$500 per person per benefit year and also provide medically needed dentures up to \$500 each for upper and lower dentures for

approximately 180,000 adults. DHS estimates that the appropriation amount included in the Governor's budget for FY 18 of \$4,704,480 in general funds, or \$11,464,103 of combined state and federal funds would re-establish basic adult dental benefits, and for FY19, the general fund request would be \$9,408,960, or \$23,522,400 including state and federal funds. These amounts were included in the Governor's Executive Budget. The Department prefers that the funds be appropriated through the Executive Budget request as it is very difficult to implement a program, such as an adult dental program that will include preventative and essential services, that is time limited.

The DHS respectfully requests that the Legislature support the funding priority for adult dental services included in the Governor's Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 23, 2017

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senate Bill 27 – Making an Appropriation to Restore Basic Adult Dental Benefits for Medicaid Enrollees

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is a statewide Governor-appointed Board with a majority of its members being persons with disabilities or family members. The Board's mission is to advocate and promote full inclusion, independence, equal access, and quality of life for persons with disabilities in society. This testimony represents a position voted upon by the Legislative Committee of the Board.

DCAB supports Senate Bill 27 Making an Appropriation to Restore Basic Adult Dental Benefits for Medicaid Enrollees. The purpose of the bill is to make an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees. According to the Mayo Clinic, studies have shown that the mouth is teeming with bacteria and without proper oral hygiene, such as brushing and flossing, the bacteria may lead to oral infections, tooth decay, and gum disease.

Providing access to dental care for adult Medicaid enrollees would do a great deal to help in the prevention of severe gum disease and other health conditions that may be linked to poor oral health such as endocarditis, cardiovascular disease or premature birth and birth weight. Certain other health conditions may also affect oral health including diabetes, HIV/AIDS, osteoporosis causing weakened bones in the jaw, or Alzheimer's disease. Access to basic adult dental benefits for Medicaid enrollees would assist in improved general health care.

We defer to the Department of Human Services regarding the appropriation necessary to restore basic adult dental health benefits to this population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 23, 2017

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB 27 – Relating to Making an Appropriation to Restore Basic Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS SB 27**. The bill appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid and QUEST integration enrollees.

The Council is especially pleased with the proposed strategy on Page 3, lines 4-6, to expand Medicaid dental services for adults to include preventive and treatment services. This provision would directly benefit adults with DD in providing oral health services that includes preventive, restorative, and prosthetic services.

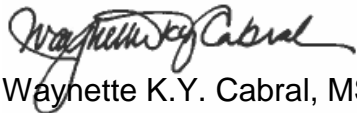
The Council cannot emphasize enough the importance of dental care services that include preventive, restorative, prosthetic, and emergency services for people with DD. We are all aware of how oral health, or the lack thereof, affects all aspects (emotional, psychological, and social) of our lives. Numerous individuals can share with you their experience of having a tooth or teeth extracted or acquiring serious health problems because necessary dental services were not available because of the termination of the Medicaid adult dental benefit coverage in 1996. Compounding the challenges is the limited number of dentists on the Neighbor Islands who are available and willing to serve Medicaid and QUEST integration enrollees

We applaud the Legislature's initiative in restoring basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid and QUEST integrated enrollees through the passage of SB 27.

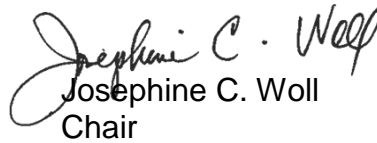
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda
Page 2
February 23, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB 27**.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator



Josephine C. Woll
Chair



HPCCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, February 23, 2017, 9:35 a.m.

State Capitol, Conf. Room 211

RE: SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 27, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Hirokawa and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCCA), a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers (Federally Qualified Health Center) throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCCA strongly **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 27.

As presently drafted, the bill would appropriate \$4,700,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2017-2018, and \$9,400,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019, to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees. The bill would also require the Department of Human Services to obtain the maximum federal matching funds available for this expenditure.

The reinstatement of adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees is a priority of the Ige Administration, and as such, general fund appropriations in the amounts of \$4,704,480 for fiscal year 2017-2018 and \$9,408,960 for fiscal year 2018-2019 have been requested in House Bill No. 100, Line Item HMS401. Staying consistent with our position from last year, the HPCCA supports funding in these amounts.

However, recent circumstances have prompted the HPCCA to further clarify its position concerning the reinstatement of adult dental benefits for Medicaid enrollees. In 2013, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals opined in *California Association of Rural Health Clinics v. Toby Douglas, Director of the California Department of Health Care Services*, (2013 WL 5184355 (Ninth Cir. 2013)), that California legislation eliminating coverage for certain healthcare services, including adult dental, podiatry, optometry, and chiropractic services, conflicted with the Medicaid Act and was therefore invalid.

As in *Douglas*, we contend that the provision of adult dental services at a FQHC is an entitlement that necessitates coverage under Hawaii's Medicaid Program. To initiate discussions that would address the entitlement recognized by the Ninth Circuit in *Douglas* while staying consistent with our position to reinstate the level of benefits provided prior to 2009, we suggest as a starting point the amount requested by Governor Ige in House Bill No. 100 (HMS401), be reduced to the percentage of adult Medicaid patients served in Hawaii's FQHCs, or approximately 33 percent. While this does not address claims that may result from the denial of benefits since 2009, at the very minimum, it would seek to address the situation moving forward. And should the Legislature in its wisdom agree to fund adult dental services at 2009 benefit levels at FQHCs, benefit levels or expansion of coverage could be a matter of discussion at a later time.

However, the reduced amount proposed should be construed solely as a potential "floor" of the benefits entitled under the *Douglas* decision. HPCA continues to support full reinstatement of adult dental coverage to all Medicaid enrollees and not just those who utilize services provided at FQHCs.

In addition, please note that we expect that the reinstatement of these much-needed benefits will result in an increase in utilization. There are many people in urgent need of dental services right now who are probably not coming to FQHCs because of the limited dental services that FQHCs can presently afford to offer.

For these reasons we **SUPPORT** Senate Bill No. 27 and urge your favorable consideration of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 11:38 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: memiyashiro@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB27 on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM

SB27

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellie Kelley-Miyashiro	Hawai Dental Hygienists' Association	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii Dental Hygienists Association strongly supports SB27. The oral health of Hawaii's people is at an all time low, with the caries rate being one of the highest in the nation. Large amounts of money are spent in Emergency room care for dental related problems, when regular preventive dental visits would alleviate this problem. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound in cure." Adding Adult dental benefits back into Medicaid is a step in acknowledging that oral health is directly correlated to overall health.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



February 22, 2017

TESTIMONY: Written only

To: The Honorable Joshua Green
The Honorable Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Hawaii Public Health Association

Subject: **SUPPORT** – SB27 Relating to Oral Health

The Hawaii Public Health Association is an association of over 600 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA **supports** the passage of SB27 which would make an appropriate to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

Hawaii has one of the worst rates of oral health for children and adults alike in the U.S. The August 2015 DOH report, "Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings", reported that there are significant oral health disparities in Hawaii's low-income residents, versus higher income residents, who are less likely to seek dental care, report more loss of teeth, over-use emergency room visits for oral health emergencies, and have lower overall dental health status. Good oral health is essential for optimal overall health, and poor dental health has been linked to higher rates of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and sepsis as well as premature infants of pregnant women.

There are also significant oral health disparities in Hawaii related to education, health insurance, and geographic location status. Children whose parents are on Medicaid are covered for preventive and treatment services, but their parents may not seek or access dental services, if the adult family members are not covered. Adults on Medicaid who are shown to be at greater risk and are more in need of oral health services are currently receiving emergency-only dental services, which are more invasive, painful and risky, more costly, and are a lower standard of care for oral health than our general population is receiving.

The DOH report specifically recommends as a key strategy based on these findings that, Medicaid services be expanded for ALL adults in Hawaii beyond the current coverage for emergencies only, to include preventative and treatment services. We ask that you provide the policy support and resources to ensure appropriate standards of dental care for our adult Medicaid population.

Respectfully submitted,


Holly Kessler
Executive Director

February 23, 2017 / 9:05a.m.
Conference Room 211

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President – Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: SB 27 – Testimony in Support

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

I am writing in support of SB 27 which makes an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

Poor oral health is linked with respiratory disease, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cardiac issues, premature births, and even can affect the ability of individuals to obtain and keep employment. Restoring basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees is in the best interests of the State as oral health is an essential part of general health and well-being.

Hawai'i Pacific Health supports SB 27.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Date: February 22, 2017

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Re: **Strong Support for SB 27, Making An Appropriation To Restore Basic Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees**

Hrg: February 23, 2017 at 9:35 am at Capitol Room 211

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of SB 27, Restoring Basic Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees.

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i. HIPHI weaves silos into working relationships as an effective network, ensuring that we come together across sectors to advance collaboration and innovation in public health and work towards making Hawai'i the healthiest place on earth.

SB 27 appropriates funds to the DHS to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid and QUEST integration enrollees. Oral health in our state is a public health crisis, with Hawaii receiving a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report card released by The Pew Center for the States. Restoring basic adult dental benefits would help to address this crisis. Adult Medicaid enrollees have no coverage for preventive or routine dental care, and this lack of access has a negative impact on one's health, especially for individuals with chronic diseases such as coronary disease and diabetes.

HIPHI defers to the State Department of Human Services on the estimates to restore basic adult dental benefits. We strongly support the restoration of these benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Yamauchi'.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Executive Director



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Ways and Means

From:  Paula Yoshioka, Senior Vice President, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 21, 2017

Hrg: Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Decision Making; Thursday, February 23, 2017
at 9:35AM in Room 211

Re: **Support for SB 27, Making an Appropriation to Restore Basic Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees**

My name is Paula Yoshioka, and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems. I would like to express my **support** for SB 27, which would restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid patients.

The Queen's Medical Center, Dental Clinic is home to Hawaii's only accredited hospital-based General Practice Residency Program and provides comprehensive dental services to meet the needs of our community. Queen's is committed to providing quality care to Native Hawaiians and all the people of Hawaii regardless of their ability to pay.

For fiscal year 2015, 46% of the patients served at the Dental Clinic were Medicaid eligible. Queen's supports the legislative intent of restoring basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Due to the high costs of dental procedures our clients are sometimes unable to receive the necessary dental care to ensure their health needs. For example, a client who needed two root canals did not have the monies for the expensive procedure. We were finally able to get support through Catholic charities but that was a close all. Please help fund the necessary dental support our clientele with disabilities needs to live a healthy life. Thank you,

Suzie

suzie@arcofmaui.org



February 23, 2017 at 9:35 AM
Conference Room 211

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Chair Jill N. Tokuda
Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz

From: Paige Heckathorn
Senior Manager, Legislative Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
SB 27, Making an Appropriation to Restore Basic Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 160 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

We would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** SB 27, which would restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid patients. Having and maintaining good oral health enables individuals to live healthier, more productive lives. A recent report released by the Department of Health titled *Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings* reveals that there are disparities in access to basic and routine dental treatment for underserved individuals. According to the report, low-income residents in the state were more likely to have dental problems and less likely to seek care to resolve those issues than their counterparts. Restoring the dental benefit in the Medicaid program will help to increase access to needed preventive and dental services that can help to bridge this gap in care.

Addressing dental issues early is also beneficial for the health care system, since many individuals turn to emergency room care to seek treatment. According to the department's report, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems in 2012. Expanding access to and encouraging the use of preventive dental treatments and oral health services could help to lower the number of visits, saving the system from costly treatments. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.



HO'OLA LAHUI HAWAI'I
P.O. Box 3990; Līhu'e, Hawai'i
Phone: 808.240.0100 Fax: 808.246.9551

February 21, 2017

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB 27

Relating to Oral Health

Thursday, February 23, 2017, Room 211

Ho'ola Lahui Hawaii the only Federally Qualified Health Center and Native Hawaiian Health Care System on Kauai is strongly **SUPPORTING** this bill to restore adult dental benefits for those on Medicaid.

Dental care is vital to the over health of individuals. Nearly 50% of all adults aged 30 or older have some form of gum disease according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and adult cavities is on the rise. Around 90% of all adults have had a cavity and 1 in 4 adults have untreated cavities.

It is vital to support the dental benefit restoration to Medicaid for those who are most in need. Prevention will save millions of dollars in restorative care services in the long term.

If patients are not in pain, can eat healthier and have a more positive outlook they are more likely to gain employment and be more productive. Since 2009 when this benefit was removed, we have witnessed increasing numbers of individuals who are in dire need of care.

We strongly encourage you to pass this bill and restore benefits to those most in need.

Respectfully Requested,

David Peters
Chief Executive Officer

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 4:48 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ammonwhigham@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB27 on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM

SB27

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ammon Boyd Koaikapono Whigham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! I work as a registered dental hygienist in the State of Hawaii. My workplace sees over 90% of patients on Medicaid dental insurance. Our practice is mostly limited to patients under the age of 21 as dictated by insurance companies. We are only able to see Adult Patients on an emergency basis as required by the insurance coverage. In my experience, all of these patients will benefit from some sort of preventative coverage to give them proper care. Dental Hygienists have the opportunity to work in Preventative Care, which is to educate patients on how to properly maintain Oral Health. Every patient on state insurance would highly benefit from such information and guidance if only they were given to opportunity to receive it without having to pay exorbitant amounts of money. Daily we are visited by such patients who seek some way to keep their teeth without having to extract them, but due to financial reasons they tend to only have one option for treatment and have the tooth pulled. Even if there is some way to provide preventative care for these patients it will highly benefit the individual and our society as a whole. Mahalo nui for your time.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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