

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

March 17, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 27 SD 1 - MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES**

Hearing: March 17, 2017, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, 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 Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM) amended the measure by changing the appropriations to unspecified sums, and defecting the effective date. WAM also noted its intention to consider including the appropriations in the executive budget.

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

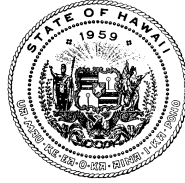
negative impact on a person's health, especially for individuals with chronic diseases such as coronary disease and diabetes, and for pregnant women and their newborns as a mother's oral health directly impacts her baby.

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 appreciates the comment of WAM as DHS 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.



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB27 SD1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULTS DENTAL BENEFITS
TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES**

REPRESENTATIVE DEE MORIKAWA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 17, 2017

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** SB27 SD1 proposes adding a general fund appropriation for fiscal years
2 2018 and 2019 to the Department of Human Services budget to restore basic adult dental benefits
3 to Medicaid enrollees. We defer to the Department of Human Services on the fiscal implications
4 of this measure.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health is providing comment on SB27 SD1
6 Making An Appropriation To Restore Basic Adults Dental Benefits To Medicaid Enrollees.

7 The Department of Health 2015 “Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings” report identified
8 eight strategies to improve oral health and includes expanding Medicaid dental services for
9 adults beyond the limited benefits for emergency and palliative care. A copy of the report can be
10 found at: http://health.hawaii.gov/about/files/2013/06/Key_Findings_wC.pdf

11 The report also presents data indicating the need for basic preventive and treatment dental
12 services for all Hawaii residents including adults. As described in the bill introduction, the 2012
13 data shows low-income adults less likely to visit a dentist each year and are more likely to suffer
14 from tooth loss than high income adults (Hawaii Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System).

15 Also concerning, 2009-2011 data shows less than half of pregnant women (41%) see a
16 dentist although national health recommendations state dental visits are safe and important to
17 prevent dental problems for mothers and their developing babies. Low-income pregnant women
18 and those on Medicaid/QUEST health insurance have the lowest estimates for dental visits
19 (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System).

1 Nationally, several states have shown a lack of regular dental care drives up health care
2 costs by examining emergency department data. Without access to preventive and treatment
3 services, many residents seek care at hospital emergency departments for dental problems
4 although dental services are not available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency
5 department (ED) visits by children and adults in Hawaii for preventable dental problems,
6 representing more than \$8.5 million dollars in hospital charges by both state, federal and private
7 providers. The average charge per ED visit was \$2,854.09. Since 2006, the number of
8 preventable ED visits for dental problems increased by 67%, significantly higher than the
9 national average.

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



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
March 17, 2017

The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services
and
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa, Representative Au Belatti and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB 27 SD1 – Relating to Making an Appropriation to Restore Basic Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS SB 27 SD1**. 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.

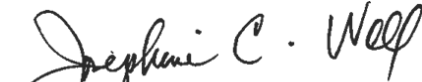
The Honorable Dee Morikawa
The Honorable Della Au Belatti
Page 2
March 17, 2017

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



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

March 17, 2017

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senate Bill 27, SD1 – 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, SD1 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 *ego*
Executive Director

SHOPO



PRESIDENT

Tenari R. Ma'afala

VICE PRESIDENT

Malcolm Lutu

TREASURER

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Lihue, Hawaii 96766

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TO: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Chris Todd, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Members of the House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Tenari Ma'afala, President 
State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers

DATE: March 14, 2017

SUBJECT: Testimony on S.B. No. 519 S.D.2, Relating to Domestic Violence

HEARING: Friday, March 17, 2017
9:30 a.m. Conference Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. This bill provides that a complaint against a police officer that involves domestic violence does not have to be in writing, nor sworn to. The State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers ("SHOPO") opposes this bill.

The current SHOPO collective bargaining agreement requires all external complaints to be in writing and sworn to by the complainants, except as provided by law. There have been no exceptions by law to date and there is good reason for that. The purposes for having complaints in writing and sworn to include:

- (1) The complainant's or witness's best recall is usually immediately after the incident, and for administrative investigations, a written statement often carries more credibility later if the victim or witness tries to recant.
- (2) The written statement can be used to refresh the complainant's or witness's memory in later proceedings, if necessary, where if nothing is written down, the complainant or witness has nothing with which to refresh their memory.
- (3) A written and sworn statement reminds the complainant and witnesses of the gravity of their allegations. There have been false allegations by spouses in the past when they are experiencing marital issues and the spouse knows the allegations will get the police officer spouse into trouble.

- (4) A written and sworn statement may also reduce the potential for retaliation by citizens who have been arrested by a police officer (for example, for Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence of an Intoxicant, assault, or domestic violence). Arrestees could easily retaliate by anonymously phoning in an oral complaint accusing the officer of domestic violence. This would trigger an investigation of the officer and may likely result in the officer having their police authority removed and being assigned to desk duty during the investigation, even if later held to be unfounded.

A written and sworn statement later helps the complainant and any witnesses in furtherance of the complaint.

Finally, we ask that you consider the testimony filed on February 12, 2015 by the Department of the Attorney General (“AG”) on a similar bill in the 2015 Session, (then H.B. 456), opining that the bill violates the Hawaii Constitution, article VIII, section 2. The AG further advised that the Hawaii Constitution authorizes the counties to adopt charters, and the county charters have authorized the police commissions to adopt rules, and the police commission has rules requiring complaints to be in writing and sworn to.

Thus, SHOPO opposes this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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

March 14, 2017

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB 27, SD1
Relating to Oral Health
Friday March 17, 2017 9:30 AM Room 329

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 overall 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.

This is the single most important bill currently in the legislature to our patients. We strongly encourage you to pass this bill and restore benefits to those most in need.

Respectfully Requested,

David Peters
Chief Executive Officer



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Friday, March 17, 2017, 9:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conf. Room 329

RE: SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 27, SENATE DRAFT 1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES.

Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Hirokawa and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), 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 HPCA strongly **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 27, Senate Draft 1.

As presently drafted, the bill would appropriate unspecified amounts in general funds for fiscal year 2017-2018, and 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, and take effect on July 1, 2050.

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, as it was introduced, at Line Item HMS401. Staying consistent with our position from last year, the HPCA supports funding in these amounts.

However, recent circumstances have prompted the HPCA 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.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 27, Senate Draft 1

March 17, 2017

Page 2

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** the reinstatement of adult dental coverage for all Medicaid enrollees and urge your favorable consideration of this measure to facilitate continued discussions on this important issue.

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



March 17, 2017
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

To: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair
The Honorable Chris Todd, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health

From: Laura Esslinger, Chief Executive Officer
Paula Arcena, Chief Customer Officer
Rachel Wilkinson, Public Policy Analyst

Re: SB27 SD1 Making an appropriation to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees

AlohaCare is **in strong support** of SB27 SD1, which makes an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

AlohaCare is a non-profit, Hawaii based health plan founded in 1994 by Hawaii's community health centers. We serve Medicaid and Medicare Special Needs beneficiaries in all counties.

Studies have increasingly shown the direct correlation between oral health and overall health and wellness. Poor oral health can be linked to chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. According to the Department of Health 2015 "Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings" report, low income adults and pregnant women are less likely to visit a dentist.

Adult Medicaid enrollees currently do not receive preventive or routine dental care and are offered a limited benefit of extractions and emergency-only coverage. AlohaCare believes that restoring the basic adult dental benefits will help to reduce health care costs. The provision of this benefit is an investment that prevents more costly care in the long-term.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**WAIANAЕ COAST
COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CENTER**
www.wcchc.com

March 15, 2017

House Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Chair

The Hon. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 27, Senate Draft 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL
BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES.**

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center strongly supports that funding be provided through SB27 SD1 to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees in the State of Hawaii.

Restoring support is sorely overdue to address the 42% of the adult population on the Waianae Coast that has not had a dental visit, which is the highest percentage in the state, whose average is 29%.

Additional justification can be found in the 2015 Department of Health report entitled "*Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings*", which showed the following:

- (1) From 2009 to 2011, only 41% of pregnant women, 29% of pregnant low-income women, and 27% of women in Medicaid or QUEST visited a dentist during their pregnancy;
- (2) In 2012, 52% of low-income adults saw a dentist as compared to 82% of higher income adults;
- (3) In that same year, 51% of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did; and
- (4) From 2006 to 2012, there was a 67% increase in emergency room visits for dental problems, accounting for a \$4.5 million increase, bringing total expenditures for such visits alone to \$8.5 million.

It is critical to restore adult dental benefits to address dental health needs and its relationship to other health conditions which impact upon one's social determinants of health. This bill will provide additional benefits to both individuals and the community as a whole by making it easier for individuals to obtain employment, reduce absenteeism to school or work, and improving social standing.

Please consider the importance of this bill to the health and well-being of our adult Medicaid enrollees. Mahalo.

From: B.J. Ott <BJ@ccmaui.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 3:49 PM
To: HUSTestimony
Subject: SB27 SD1

House Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Chair
The Hon. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 27, Senate Draft 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO
MEDICAID ENROLLEES.
Friday, March 17, 2017; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conf. Room 329

Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

My name is B.J. Ott and I am the Acting CEO of Community Clinic of Maui dba Mālama I Ke Ola Health Center. I am testifying in strong support of Senate Bill No. 27, Senate Draft 1.

In 2015, the Department of Health (DOH) released a report entitled "*Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings*", which revealed that Hawaii has an enormous shortfall in the area of dental benefits. Among other things, DOH found that:

- (1) From 2009 to 2011, only 41% of pregnant women, 29% of pregnant low-income women, and 27% of women in Medicaid or QUEST visited a dentist during their pregnancy;
- (2) In 2012, 52% of low-income adults saw a dentist as compared to 82% of higher income adults;
- (3) In that same year, 51% of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did; and
- (4) From 2006 to 2012, there was a 67% increase in emergency room visits for dental problems, accounting for a \$4.5 million increase, bringing total expenditures for such visits alone to \$8.5 million.

Further, the DOH outlined a number of measures that could greatly improve the oral health status of Hawaii's residents. Foremost among them was the continued support and expansion of preventative dental care to low-income populations, best achieved through the restoration of adult dental services in Medicaid.

This issue is of special importance to all community health centers because a majority provide dental services. Between 2007 and 2015, the number of patients receiving dental care at community health centers more than doubled, rising from 20,000 patients to over 40,000. As 57% of community health center patients are enrolled in either Medicaid or CHIP Programs, this bill will provide much needed funding and sustainability for services to the most needy in the State.

Additionally, [ORGANIZATION] is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. This bill will provide additional benefits to both individuals and the community as a whole by making it easier for individuals to obtain employment, reduce absenteeism to school or work, and improve social standing.

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

B.J. Ott, Acting CEO
CFO/Deputy Director
Community Clinic of Maui, Inc.
DBA Mālama I Ke Ola Health Center
1881 Nani Street
Wailuku, HI 96793
Office 808-872-4018
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House Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Chair

The Hon. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 27, Senate Draft 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO
MEDICAID ENROLLEES.**

Friday, March 17, 2017; 9:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conf. Room 329

Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mary Frances Oneha and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Waimanalo Health Center. I am testifying in strong support of Senate Bill No. 27, Senate Draft 1.

In 2015, the Department of Health (DOH) released a report entitled "Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings", which revealed that Hawaii has an enormous shortfall in the area of dental benefits. Among other things, DOH found that:

- (1) From 2009 to 2011, only 41% of pregnant women, 29% of pregnant low-income women, and 27% of women in Medicaid or QUEST visited a dentist during their pregnancy;
- (2) In 2012, 52% of low-income adults saw a dentist as compared to 82% of higher income adults;
- (3) In that same year, 51% of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did; and
- (4) From 2006 to 2012, there was a 67% increase in emergency room visits for dental problems, accounting for a \$4.5 million increase, bringing total expenditures for such visits alone to \$8.5 million.

Further, the DOH outlined a number of measures that could greatly improve the oral health status of Hawaii's residents. Foremost among them was the continued support and expansion of preventative dental care to low-income populations, best achieved through the restoration of adult dental services in Medicaid.

This issue is of special importance to all community health centers because a majority provide dental services. Between 2007 and 2015, the number of patients receiving dental care at community health centers more than doubled, rising from 20,000 patients to over 40,000. As 57% of community health center patients are enrolled in either Medicaid or CHIP Programs, this bill will provide much needed funding and sustainability for services to the most needy in the State.

Additionally, Waimanalo Health Center is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. This bill will provide additional benefits to both individuals and the community as a whole by making it easier for individuals to obtain employment, reduce absenteeism to school or work, and improving social standing. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair
The Honorable Chris Todd, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Health


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

Date: March 14, 2017

Hrg: House Committee on Human Services and Committee on Health Joint Hearing; Friday,
March 17th, 2017 at 9:30AM in Room 329

Re: **Support for SB 27, SD1, 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, SD1, 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.

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.

LĀNA'Ī COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

P. O. Box 630142
Lāna'ī City, HI 96763-0142



Phone: 808-565-6919
Fax: 808-565-9111
dshaw@lanaicommunityhealthcenter.org

The Community is our Patient -- men, women, children, uninsured, insured!

House Committee on Human Services Committee On Health

Testimony on SB27, SD1 RELATING TO DENTAL HEALTH. March 17, 2017; 9:30 a.m. State Capitol, Conf. Room 329

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Diana M V Shaw, PhD, MPH, MBA, FACMPE, and I am the Executive Director of Lāna'ī Community Health Center. I am testifying in strong support of SB27, SD1

In 2015, the Department of Health (DOH) released a report entitled "*Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings*", which revealed that Hawaii has an enormous shortfall in the area of dental benefits. Among other things, DOH found that:

- (1) From 2009 to 2011, only 41% of pregnant women, 29% of pregnant low-income women, and 27% of women in Medicaid or QUEST visited a dentist during their pregnancy;
- (2) In 2012, 52% of low-income adults saw a dentist as compared to 82% of higher income adults;
- (3) In that same year, 51% of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did; and
- (4) From 2006 to 2012, there was a 67% increase in emergency room visits for dental problems, accounting for a \$4.5 million increase, bringing total expenditures for such visits alone to \$8.5 million.

Further, the DOH outlined a number of measures that could greatly improve the oral health

E Ola nō Lāna'ī
LIFE, HEALTH, and WELL-BEING FOR LĀNA'Ī

status of Hawaii's residents. Foremost among them was the continued support and expansion of preventative dental care to low-income populations, best achieved through the restoration of adult dental services in Medicaid.

This issue is of special importance to all community health centers because a majority provide dental services. Between 2007 and 2015, the number of patients receiving dental care at community health centers more than doubled, rising from 20,000 patients to over 40,000. As 57% of community health center patients are enrolled in either Medicaid or CHIP Programs, this bill will provide much needed funding and sustainability for services to the most needy in the State.

Additionally, Lāna'i Community Health Center is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. This bill will provide additional benefits to both individuals and the community as a whole by making it easier for individuals to obtain employment, reduce absenteeism to school or work, and improving social standing.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D V Shaw', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Diana M V Shaw, PhD, MPH, MBA, FACMPE
Executive Director



March 14, 2017

TESTIMONY: Written only

To: Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Senate Committee on Health

From: Hawaii Public Health Association

Subject: **SUPPORT – SB27 SD1 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 SD1 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



Date: March 15, 2017

To: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair
The Honorable Chris Todd, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

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

Re: **Strong Support for SB 27, SD1 Making An Appropriation To Restore Basic Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees**

Hrg: March 17, 2017 at 9:30 am at Capitol Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of SB 27, SD1 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



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

March 17, 2017

TO: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair,
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair,
Members, Committee on Human Services

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair,
Representative Bertrand Kobayahi, Vice Chair,
Members, Committee on Health

FROM: Natalie Okeson, Interim Executive Director

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB27, SD1 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO
RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES.

Hearing: March 17, 2017 at 9:30am
Conference Room 329

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair, Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair, and Members,
Committee on Human Services

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayahi, Vice Chair, and
Members, Committee on Health

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB27, SD1. I am Natalie Okeson, Interim Executive Director of PHOCUSED. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing the safety for, visibility of, and investment in the children and adults in Hawaii who are marginalized, impoverished, and under-served. Our

1822 Keeamoku Street, Ulu Center ☉ Honolulu, HI 96822 ☉ P: 808.521.7459
www.phocused-hawaii.org ☉ admin@phocused-hawaii.org



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

organization has been a leading voice in advocating for our state's most vulnerable populations since our formation, as the membership of PHOCUSED and our Board of Directors represent many of the major providers of human services across our state.

PHOCUSED is proud to strongly support SB27, SD1, which would restore the basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees. As you are well aware, our state is in an oral health crisis, with the rates of dental emergencies on the rise. By restoring benefits, our state will be granting the critical access to preventative care, which can truly impact oral health outcomes for this population.

Again, as you already know, the positive impacts of preventative dental care do not stop with oral health. It is critical that we see oral health for what it truly is: a major indicator and influencer of overall wellbeing. Oral health has large implications for pregnant women and their babies, as well as individuals with chronic diseases. Due to the impact that poor oral health can have on overall health outcomes, restoring benefits and access to preventative dental care can save our community the significant costs associated with poor health with a much more palatable investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB27, SD1. PHOCUSED strongly encourages the passage of this bill.



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

March 14, 2017

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB 27, SD1
Relating to Oral Health
Friday March 17, 2017 9:30 AM Room 329

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.

This is the single most important bill currently in the legislature to our patients. We strongly encourage you to pass this bill and restore benefits to those most in need.

Respectfully Requested,

Debra L Henton
Board of Director, Treasurer



March 17, 2017 at 9:30 AM
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Human Services
House Committee on Health

To: Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice Chair Chris Todd

Chair Della Au Belatti
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

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

Re: Testimony in Support
SB 27 SD 1, 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 committees for the opportunity to **support** SB 27 SD 1, 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.

House Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Chair

The Hon. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 27, Senate Draft 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL
BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES.**

Friday, March 17, 2017; 9:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conf. Room 329

Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donna Altshul and I am the Dental Program Director of West Hawaii Community Health Center. I am testifying in strong support of Senate Bill No. 27, Senate Draft 1.

In 2015, the Department of Health (DOH) released a report entitled "*Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings*", which revealed that Hawaii has an enormous shortfall in the area of dental benefits. Among other things, DOH found that:

- (1) From 2009 to 2011, only 41% of pregnant women, 29% of pregnant low-income women, and 27% of women in Medicaid or QUEST visited a dentist during their pregnancy; Emerging evidence shows an association between periodontal infection and adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as premature delivery and low birth weight. Studies also show that controlling oral diseases improves a woman's quality of life and has the potential to reduce the transmission of oral bacteria from mothers to children.
- (2) In 2012, 52% of low-income adults saw a dentist as compared to 82% of higher income adults;
- (3) In that same year, 51% of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did; and
- (4) From 2006 to 2012, there was a 67% increase in emergency room visits for dental problems, accounting for a \$4.5 million increase, bringing total expenditures for such visits alone to \$8.5 million. What is more compelling is that emergency departments do not provide dental treatment and can do little except provide medication for pain. They cannot address the underlying dental problem and in many cases, the patient returns to the emergency room with the same problem or worse.

Further, the DOH outlined a number of measures that could greatly improve the oral health status of Hawaii's residents. Foremost among them was the continued support and expansion of preventative dental care to low-income populations, best achieved through the restoration of adult dental services in Medicaid.

This issue is of special importance to all community health centers because a majority provide dental services. Between 2007 and 2015, the number of patients receiving dental care at community health centers more than doubled, rising from 20,000 patients to over 40,000. As 57% of community

health center patients are enrolled in either Medicaid or CHIP Programs, this bill will provide much needed funding and sustainability for services to the most needy in the State.

Additionally, West Hawaii Community Health Center is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. This bill will provide additional benefits to both individuals and the community as a whole by making it easier for individuals to obtain employment, reduce absenteeism to school or work, and improving social standing.

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

House Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Chair

The Hon. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

Testimony on SB 27, SD 1

Friday February 17, 2017

Rm 329; 9:30 am

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES

My name is Sheila Beckham. I am the CEO of Waikiki Health. Waikiki Health strongly supports SB 27, SD 1 which appropriates funds for the restoration of basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid patients.

Funding dental services is critical to the **5000 adults on Medicaid** who receive medical and dental services at Waikiki Health. At the current time, the only services allowed are emergent (pulling teeth), rather than preventive or restorative services.

According to a 2015 report released by the Department of Health entitled "Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings":

- In 2012, 51% of low income adults lost teeth due to dental disease compared with only 32% of those at higher income brackets
- Adults with Medicaid have been unable to receive preventive dental services since 2009, resulting in a 67% increase in emergency room use for dental problems, accounting for a \$4.5 million increase tttto \$8.5 million.
- The greatest impact from the lack of Medicaid dental coverage is seen among our patients with HIV/AIDS. HIV severely impacts the integrity of the teeth and gums, often resulting in oral infection and loss of dentition. For persons with HIV, the result is decayed and missing teeth, making it hard to eat. Without food, HIV medication is not absorbed adequately resulting in decline in overall health.

It is imperative that we recognize that that the body's systems are inter-related. In order to achieve quality of life and robust health, jobs and housing, oral health should be restored and not eliminated as a means of balancing the budget.

We ask for your support and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sasha Inouye
MSW student
Honolulu, HI

March 17, 2017

To: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair: House Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Chris Todd, Vice Chair: House Committee on Human Services

From: Sasha Inouye, MSW student, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Subject: SB 27 SD1 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT
DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES.

Hearing: Friday, March 17, 2017; 9:30 A.M.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

POSITION: As a Master of Social Work (MSW) student having completed my first social work internship at a community mental health center in Honolulu, I am in support of the intent of this measure and offer comment. The proposed bill intends to improve the oral health in Hawai'i, especially in underserved communities. Strategic planning include the support and expansion of affordable preventative dental care services to low-income populations, and possibly increasing reimbursements for service providers for key procedures. The act is proposed to take effect on July 1, 2050.

PURPOSE: Most clientele served at the community mental health clinic do qualify to receive supplemental security insurance (SSI); as well as Medicaid health benefits. Clients spend SSI benefits on basic necessities such as clothing, shoes, and rent. SSI benefits may also go toward a client's health needs such as paying for eyeglasses or other costs not covered or not covered in full by Medicaid benefits. Additionally, clients may be unable to work due to varied reasons. It is therefore common that the amount of SSI benefits clients receive put clients on a tight budget for basic necessities, this to include dental services.

Many of the clients I have worked with would benefit from increased access to dental benefits. Dental health is an integral part of a person's whole health, interrelated to other body systems and functioning. Clients are in need of all types of dental services, some do not remember the last time they've visited a dentist; and clients express interest in seeing a dentist for services within their budget. Without adequate dental benefits, clients naturally pay in full for costly dental check-ups, cleanings, or procedures they desire and are in need of. Some agencies and private dentists in the community do provide services at reduced prices, sometimes on a sliding scale for clients who are in financial need. These more affordable services are appreciated; however, wait times and locations may cause difficulties in access.

With improved dental benefits for clientele who are enrollees in the Medicaid program, I believe that clients will benefit from the increased access to services. Clients may feel increased confidence in their journey toward their personal goals and dreams, as we continue to support them in meeting their basic needs through improved oral health care. Dental service providers being offered reimbursement via Medicaid as well as incentives for accepting a client with Medicaid insurance would ease access by compensating providers for their services and for adjustment to their practice to accept clientele; thus increasing the number of affordable provider options in a client's community. It is in kind suggestion that the act take effect earlier than the year 2050, preferably on July 1, 2017 to provide consumers more immediate access to needed care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Sasha Inouye
MSW student
Honolulu, HI

March 17, 2017

To: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair: House Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Chris Todd, Vice Chair: House Committee on Human Services

From: Sasha Inouye, MSW student, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Subject: SB 27 SD1 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT
DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES.

Hearing: Friday, March 17, 2017; 9:30 A.M.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

POSITION: As a Master of Social Work (MSW) student having completed my first social work internship at a community mental health center in Honolulu, I am in support of the intent of this measure and offer comment. The proposed bill intends to improve the oral health in Hawai'i, especially in underserved communities. Strategic planning include the support and expansion of affordable preventative dental care services to low-income populations, and possibly increasing reimbursements for service providers for key procedures. The act is proposed to take effect on July 1, 2050.

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Many of the clients I have worked with would benefit from increased access to dental benefits. Dental health is an integral part of a person's whole health, interrelated to other body systems and functioning. Clients are in need of all types of dental services, some do not remember the last time they've visited a dentist; and clients express interest in seeing a dentist for services within their budget. Without adequate dental benefits, clients naturally pay in full for costly dental check-ups, cleanings, or procedures they desire and are in need of. Some agencies and private dentists in the community do provide services at reduced prices, sometimes on a sliding scale for clients who are in financial need. These more affordable services are appreciated; however, wait times and locations may cause difficulties in access.

With improved dental benefits for clientele who are enrollees in the Medicaid program, I believe that clients will benefit from the increased access to services. Clients may feel increased confidence in their journey toward their personal goals and dreams, as we continue to support them in meeting their basic needs through improved oral health care. Dental service providers being offered reimbursement via Medicaid as well as incentives for accepting a client with Medicaid insurance would ease access by compensating providers for their services and for adjustment to their practice to accept clientele; thus increasing the number of affordable provider options in a client's community. It is in kind suggestion that the act take effect earlier than the year 2050, preferably on July 1, 2017 to provide consumers more immediate access to needed care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

House Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Chair

The Hon. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 27, Senate Draft 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL
BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES.**

Friday, March 17, 2017; 9:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conf. Room 329

Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Meizhu Lui, and I am the a consumer board member of Hamakua-Kohala Health. I am testifying in strong support of Senate Bill No. 27, Senate Draft 1.

In 2015, the Department of Health (DOH) released a report entitled "*Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings*", which revealed that Hawaii has an enormous shortfall in the area of dental benefits. Among other things, DOH found that:

- (1) From 2009 to 2011, only 41% of pregnant women, 29% of pregnant low-income women, and 27% of women in Medicaid or QUEST visited a dentist during their pregnancy;
- (2) In 2012, 52% of low-income adults saw a dentist as compared to 82% of higher income adults;
- (3) In that same year, 51% of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did; and
- (4) From 2006 to 2012, there was a 67% increase in emergency room visits for dental problems, accounting for a \$4.5 million increase, bringing total expenditures for such visits alone to \$8.5 million.

Teeth are part of the body, and essential to our overall good health and enjoyment of life. Providing preventive dental care improves the quality of life for Hawaii residents, prevents other health problems, and therefore saves money not just for emergency dental, but for other health problems as well.

Our health center has a dental van that is currently idle because we cannot afford to run it without this critical state funding. It was one of the services we provided to people who would otherwise not have access to dental care since dentists who accept Medicaid are impossible to find on Hawaii Island. It has been painful to see our wonderful van sitting at the curb for months on end.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 7:55 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB27 on Mar 17, 2017 09:30AM*

SB27

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

todd2 - Chloe

From: Mary Whispering Wind <marywind@mail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 5:16 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: I SUPPORT SB 27, SD1 - MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES.

Aloha lawmakers,

Please **SUPPORT SB 27, SD1** - MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES.

We must care for those who are in pain, and suffering. Teeth are vital to obtaining nourishment, and maintaining good health!

Mahalo,
Mary Overbay
Maui, Hawaii

Date: March 15, 2017

To: Chair Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair Chris Todd, and other House Committee on Human Services Members

From: Mark Yamakawa
President & CEO

Subject: HDS Testimony on SB 27
(Making an Appropriation to Restore Basic Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees)

Position: HDS strongly supports SB 27

Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd, and other House Human Service Committee members:

For the past eight years, adults in Hawai'i with Medicaid coverage have been denied opportunities to make sound oral health choices for themselves. Hawaii's current Medicaid coverage policies have robbed them of a better quality of life.

As a partner with the Hawai'i Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division, HDS has the privilege of serving families who qualify for Medicaid and has witnessed the effects this policy has on families. Hawaii's current Medicaid policy sends mixed messages about the value of oral health: children have access to a range of quality treatment options, but that same standard of care is not available for adults. If parents cannot go to the dentist to receive basic care, these same health habits are passed on to their children, perpetuating intergenerational oral health degradation.

Preventive care at the earliest stage is critical to the future of oral health of each child. If parents do not demonstrate good oral hygiene habits and utilize available (Medicaid covered) care, their families are grossly disadvantaged because they are not able to set their children on a path to maintain their oral hygiene through adolescence and adulthood. This is aligned with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's (AAPD) recommendations for pediatric oral health and preventive services since oral hygiene counseling and guidance is solely provided by the parent in the first two years of a child's life.

Updating Hawaii's Medicaid policy will help to break this vicious cycle. Since 2009, the only oral health treatment option for Medicaid-eligible adults has been extracting their diseased teeth. This is not a best practice in oral health care. If adults receive regular preventive and restorative treatments they can maintain good oral health and avoid drastic measures such as extractions. Research has shown that when states reduce or eliminate adult dental benefits, preventive dental service use decreases, and unmet dental care needs, along with hospital emergency visits, increase for preventable dental problems (macpac.gov, June 2015) – this corroborates our experiences in Hawaii with emergency room visits increasing by 67 percent since 2006, accounting for \$8.5 million in total expenditures by the State.

Medicaid-eligible adults with a range of chronic conditions are more susceptible to oral disease, which in turn can exacerbate chronic disease symptoms and can contribute to complications. For instance, people with diabetes are more susceptible to developing periodontal disease,

affecting their metabolic control of diabetes. Adults with pneumonia and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are also more likely to have poor periodontal health, gingival inflammation, and other oral health issues. There is also emerging research showing associations between poor oral health and pregnancy outcomes where maternal periodontal disease impact pregnancy complications such as preterm birth and low birth weight.

Tooth pain and loss also affects everyday activities including speech and communication, eating and getting proper nutrition, sleep, self-esteem, and socialization. For the Medicaid-eligible adult population with incomes already below 100 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL), poor oral hygiene and missing teeth directly affect their ability to get and retain a job. The socioeconomic impact throughout our communities is devastating and disheartening and yet, preventable.

With preventive and restorative care options, adults will avoid undue pain and receive treatment for oral health conditions before they affect their overall health as well as their ability to work and be good parents. It is a much more prudent policy to offer more care options that include preventive and restorative care instead of limiting treatment to extractions.

HDS supports fully funding Medicaid coverage for eligible adults to ensure their preventive and restorative needs are met. Hawaii's most vulnerable adults have gone long enough without basic oral health benefits and they deserve better. As a state, it is time to change this for the adults as well as children, now and in the future.

Mahalo,

Mark Yamakawa
President and CEO



March 17, 2017/9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Human Services
House Committee on Health

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair

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

Re: SB 27 SD1 – 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 with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care. Its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox – specialize in innovative programs in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, bone and joint services and more. Hawai'i Pacific Health is recognized nationally for its excellence in patient care and the use of electronic health records to improve quality and patient safety.

I am writing in support of SB 27 SD1 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 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB27, SD1: MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES.

TO: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair, Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Human Services

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayahi, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Health

FROM: Greg Payton, Partners in Care, Chair of Advocacy Committee

Hearing: Friday, March 17, 2017; 9:30 am; Conference Room 329

Chair Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair Chris Todd, and Members, Committee on Human Services

Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayahi, and Members, Committee on Health:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SB27, SD1**, which would restore the basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees. I am Greg Payton, the Chair of the Advocacy Committee for Partners in Care. Partners in Care (PIC) is Oahu's continuum of care as defined by HUD, and PIC represents a coalition of more than 35 non-profit, homeless providers.

Our Coalition supports this bill as the medical fragility of many homeless individuals cannot be overstated. Many suffer from the chronic illnesses that are exasperated by poor oral health due to lack of access to preventative dental health care.

Partners in Care is well aware of the financial burden the homeless population can have on the healthcare system, which is why we advocate for evidence-based strategies such as the Housing First model. The Housing First model reduces the frequency with which high-cost services, such as emergency room visits, are needed once an individual is housed and provided crucial interventions. Preventative oral health care will positively impact our rising rates of dental emergencies and other poor health outcomes that negatively affect the overall healthcare system. By adding adult dental care back into Medicaid, you will ensure that many of our most vulnerable community members are in a position to take advantage of services that will improve the state of their oral health and thus their overall wellbeing.

Partners in Care supports this bill which is a cost-effective investment that will increase the health outcomes for many vulnerable populations while generating an overall cost-savings to the community and our healthcare system. We urge you to pass SB27.



PARTNERS IN CARE
Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

Please contact Greg Payton, PIC Chair of Advocacy Committee,
gpayton@mhkhawaii.org or at 808-529-4554, if you have any questions.

todd2 - Chloe

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 7:29 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: wao-hsl@WeAreOne.cc
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB27 on Mar 17, 2017 09:30AM

SB27

Submitted on: 3/16/2017
Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments: Smiles change everything! www.WeAreOne.cc

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todd2 - Chloe

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: HUSstestimony
Cc: david@kkv.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB27 on Mar 17, 2017 09:30AM*

SB27

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
david derauf	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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