

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

January 23, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: January 23, 2017, 2:55 p.m.
Conference Room 016, 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 DHS estimates that the \$4,800,000 appropriation would re-establish basic adult dental benefits - up to \$500 per person per benefit year and also provide medically needed dentures up to \$500 each for upper and lower dentures. It is estimated that for the approximately 180,000 adults, the cost will be \$11,464,103 of combined state and federal funds, of which \$4,704,480 would be general funds. This amount was 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.



TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

FR: Mary Oneha, APRN, PhD
Chief Executive Officer, Waimānalo Health Center
Member, Native Hawaiian Health Task Force

Date: Monday, January 23, 2017
2:50pm, Conference Room 016

RE: Support for SB 27 Relating to Oral Health

The Waimānalo Health Center has consistently supported and continues to provide strong support to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees through SB 27. Waimanalo Health Center's Dental Clinic continues to see a high percent of uninsured adults and the number of dental emergencies continues to increase.

The severity of cases vary within our population and the age groups typically show different disease manifestation (caries vs. periodontal) all with potentially devastating outcomes. Younger adults typically present with early signs of periodontal disease and more obvious, active signs of untreated tooth decay. Early preventable tooth loss is common in our young adult population. As the population goes into their forties and later, periodontal disease becomes more prevalent and devastating.

Should the adult population have the luck to survive the onslaught of decay and periodontal disease into their golden years; we see an uptick in caries again as medications and age take a toll on saliva flow. Now, exposed root surfaces and teeth that have been previously filled or crowned are subject to decay that destroys what's left of their dentition. Periodontal disease always remains a threat without proper dental care.

There are many instances of adults negatively affected by lack of regular dental care, instances resulting in bone loss, teeth loss, periodontal disease, and poor nutrition. The availability of resources (basic adult dental benefits) to assist these patients would have more positively impacted their outcomes. **The investment for basic adult services can have a dramatic effect on patient health and future costs. For too long, we have not set an acceptable baseline for adult dental health. The time is now to restore adult dental benefits at a level for positive health outcomes.** As the CEO of Waimānalo Health Center and a member of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force, I urge your support of SB 27. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



949 Kamokila Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Suite 350, Kapolei, HI 96707
808.675.7300 | www.ohanahealthplan.com

January 23, 2017

To: The Honorable Chair Josh Green
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Chair Rosalyn Baker
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: 'Ohana Health Plan
Danny Cup Choy; Director, Government Affairs

Re: SB 27, Making an Appropriation to Restore Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits;
In Support
January 23, 2017; Conference Room 016

'Ohana Health Plan ('Ohana) is a member of the WellCare Health Plans, Inc.'s ("WellCare") family of companies and provides healthcare for Hawai'i residents statewide. Since 2009, 'Ohana has utilized WellCare's national experience to develop a Hawai'i -specific care model that addresses local members' healthcare and health coordination needs. By focusing on the state's Medicaid and Medicare population, 'Ohana serves Hawaii's most vulnerable residents: low-income, elderly, disabled, and individuals with complex medical issues. Our mission is to help our members' lead better, healthier lives.

'Ohana Health Plan offers our **support** of SB 27, which restores basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid and QUEST Integration enrollees.

Poor oral health is one of the most important issues facing our state, particularly with the Medicaid population. While oral health can often be overlooked, there is a clear relationship between preventative dental care and the deterrence of serious medical conditions. The investment to restore basic adult dental benefits for Medicaid enrollees would be relatively small in comparison to the downstream cost savings to the entire healthcare system.

We strongly urge the passage of SB 27. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 7:26 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: myamakawa@hawaiidentalsservice.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB27 on Jan 23, 2017 14:50PM

SB27

Submitted on: 1/23/2017

Testimony for HMS/CPH on Jan 23, 2017 14:50PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Yamakawa	Hawaii Dental Service	Support	No

Comments: HDS strongly supports SB27 which restores basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

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



Hawaii Dental Association

To: The Senate Committees on Human Services &
Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

Time/Date: 2:50 p.m., January 23, 2017

Location: Capitol Conference Room 016

Re: **SUPPORT FOR SB 27, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT
DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES.**

Aloha! My name is Dr. Chris Lee and I serve as the president of the Hawaii Dental Association, a professional association comprised of nearly 1,000 member dentists. The Hawaii Dental Association (HDA) is a statewide professional membership organization representing dentists practicing in Hawaii and licensed by the State of Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners. HDA members are committed to protecting the oral health and well-being of all of the people of Hawaii, from keiki to kupuna and everyone in between.

We are writing in **strong support** of SB 27 which makes an appropriation to the state Department of Human Services to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees. This measure requires the Department of Human Services to obtain the maximum federal matching funds available for this expenditure.

HDA is affiliated with the American Dental Association, a partner in a broad coalition called the Partnership for Medicaid. The Partnership for Medicaid has noted that since President Johnson signed Medicaid into law in 1965, it has evolved from a program designed to serve the health care needs of low-income women and their children to one that cares for nearly one in five Americans. According to the Partnership for Medicaid, the program is unique in its design as a federal and state program in its extraordinary flexibility, which has allowed states to test innovative new ways to fund care for those in need. The HDA believes that SB 27 is an important step towards addressing those local needs.

In addition, and consistent with our longstanding public positions, we believe that water fluoridation would make significant contributions to improving oral health in our state. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Dr. Chris Lee, D.D.S
President, Hawaii Dental Association



Date: January 22, 2017

To: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

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: January 23, 2017 at 2:50 pm at Capitol Room 016

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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Executive Director



KO'OLAULOA HEALTH CENTER

Be Well, Stay Well.

January 23, 2017

Written Testimony in Support of S.B. No. 27

Making an Appropriation to Restore Basic Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees.

Chairs Green and Baker and Members of the Committees on Human Services and Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

My name is Terrence Aratani and I am the CEO of Ko'olauloa Health Center (KHC). KHC is the only provider of dental services in the region between Waimea Bay and Kualoa. I have been at KHC for over two years and I have personally observed the need to provide more than the current dental services offered to adult Medicaid patients. With the current services limited to emergency tooth extraction and pain management, there is much more that is needed. We need to look at oral health as impacting the well-being of the entire person as poor oral health will most likely lead to other medical problems.

I recall that due to the recession of 2008, Medicaid adult dental services were cut as the State faced a downturn in the economy and some programs needed to be cut in order to address budget shortfalls. Providing funding as this bill proposes or through the biennial budget bill, to provide additional dental services to adult Medicaid patients will go a long way in taking care of probably that need to improve their oral health the most.

KHC is in support of this important bill.

Thank you.

Locations: 54-316 Kamehameha Hwy.
Suite 6
Hau'ula, HI 96717
808.293.9216

56-119 Pualalea St.
P.O. Box 395
Kahuku, HI 96731
808.293.9231

School-Based Health Center
56-490 Kamehameha Hwy.
Kahuku, HI 96731
808.454.7447



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

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

Date: January 22, 2017

Hrg: Senate Committees on Human Services and Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Joint Hearing; Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50PM in Room 016

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.

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.



Senate Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Josh Green, Chair

The Hon. Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

The Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

The Hon. Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Testimony on Senate Bill 27
Relating to Oral Health
Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, CEO
January 23, 2017, 2:50 pm, Room 016

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, **strongly supports Senate Bill 27**, which appropriates funds for the restoration of basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid patients.

In 2015, the Department of Health released a report entitled Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings. The report revealed that Hawaii has an enormous shortfall in the area of dental benefits, citing that:

- From 2009-2011, 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.
- In 2012, 52% of low-income adults saw a dentist as compared to 82% of higher income adults.
- In that same year, 51% of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did.
- From 2006 to 2012, there was a 67% increase in emergency room visits for dental problems, accounting for a \$4.5M increase, bringing total expenditures for such visits alone to \$8.5M.

Further, the Department 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 preventive dental care to low-income populations, best achieved through the restoration of adult dental services in Medicaid.

This issue is of special importance to the HPCA, as a significant majority of community health centers provide dental services. In the time frame from 2007 – 2015, the number of patients receiving dental care increased over 100%, rising from nearly 20,000 patients to over 40,000. As 57% of patients at community health centers 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, the HPCA 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.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 27

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

Honorable Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chairs Chang and Nishimoto and members of the committees, I am Dr. Kau'i Baumhofer, an Assistant Professor and a staff member of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 27. This bill would appropriate monies to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Poor oral health affects a person's ability to eat, speak, work, communicate, and learn. Unlike other states, Hawai'i does not have an ongoing and routine system for assessing the oral health of its residents - there is no dental public health program with the State Department of Health.
- Hawai'i received a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report cards published by The Pew Center. According to the Department of Health's Hawai'i Oral Health: Key Findings report published in August 2015, there are substantial dental health disparities among low-income residents, pregnant women, neighbor island counties.

- Fluoride added to community drinking water sources is a safe, inexpensive and extremely effective method of preventing tooth decay across all age groups. However, only 11% of Hawai'i residents have fluoridated water compared to 75% for the United States as a whole.
- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults. Fifty-one percent (51%) of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did so.
- Because many Hawai'i residents are unable to afford dental care or schedule a dental appointment, they end up seeking care at a hospital emergency department, although dental services are not generally available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000, compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006, due in part to the increased number of visits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,



N. Kau'i Baumhofer, ScD, MPH, MA
Assistant Professor
Health Equity Scholar
Department of Native Hawaiian Health
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawaii at Manoa

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 27

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

Honorable Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chairs Chang and Nishimoto and members of the committees, I am Mikako Deguchi, an Assistant Specialist, and a staff member of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 27. This bill would appropriate monies to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

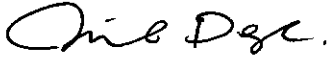
I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Poor oral health affects a person's ability to eat, speak, work, communicate, and learn. Unlike other states, Hawai'i does not have an ongoing and routine system for assessing the oral health of its residents - there is no dental public health program with the State Department of Health.
- Hawai'i received a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report cards published by The Pew Center. According to the Department of Health's Hawai'i Oral Health: Key Findings report published in August 2015, there are substantial dental health disparities among low-income residents, pregnant women, neighbor island counties.
- Fluoride added to community drinking water sources is a safe, inexpensive and extremely effective method of preventing tooth decay across all age groups. However, only 11% of Hawai'i residents have fluoridated water compared to 75% for the United States as a whole.
- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults. 110 Fifty-one percent (51%) of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did so.

- Because many Hawai'i residents are unable to afford dental care or schedule a dental appointment, they end up seeking care at a hospital emergency department, although dental services are not generally available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000, compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006, due in part to the increased number of visits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,



Mikako Deguchi, DDS, MBA

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 27

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

Honorable Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chairs Chang and Nishimoto and members of the committees, I am Nobumi Nakamura, a Research Project Coordinator, and a staff member of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 27. This bill would appropriate monies to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Poor oral health affects a person's ability to eat, speak, work, communicate, and learn. Unlike other states, Hawai'i does not have an ongoing and routine system for assessing the oral health of its residents - there is no dental public health program with the State Department of Health.
- Hawai'i received a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report cards published by The Pew Center. According to the Department of Health's Hawai'i Oral Health: Key Findings report published in August 2015, there are substantial dental health disparities among low-income residents, pregnant women, neighbor island counties.
- Fluoride added to community drinking water sources is a safe, inexpensive and extremely effective method of preventing tooth decay across all age groups. However, only 11% of Hawai'i residents have fluoridated water compared to 75% for the United States as a whole.
- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults. Fifty-one percent (51%) of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did so.

- Because many Hawai‘i residents are unable to afford dental care or schedule a dental appointment, they end up seeking care at a hospital emergency department, although dental services are not generally available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000, compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006, due in part to the increased number of visits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 27

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

Honorable Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chairs Chang and Nishimoto and members of the committees, I am Kamuela Werner, a public health practitioner and a staff member of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s John A. Burns School of Medicine’s Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 27. This bill would appropriate monies to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai‘i’s entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Poor oral health affects a person’s ability to eat, speak, work, communicate, and learn. Unlike other states, Hawai‘i does not have an ongoing and routine system for assessing the oral health of its residents - there is no dental public health program with the State Department of Health.
- Hawai‘i received a failing grade of “F” in three recent oral health report cards published by The Pew Center. According to the Department of Health’s Hawai‘i Oral Health: Key Findings report published in August 2015, there are substantial dental health disparities among low-income residents, pregnant women, neighbor island counties.
- Fluoride added to community drinking water sources is a safe, inexpensive and extremely effective method of preventing tooth decay across all age groups. However, only 11% of Hawai‘i residents have fluoridated water compared to 75% for the United States as a whole.
- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai‘i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults. Fifty-one percent (51%) of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did so.

- Because many Hawai'i residents are unable to afford dental care or schedule a dental appointment, they end up seeking care at a hospital emergency department, although dental services are not generally available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000, compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006, due in part to the increased number of visits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kamuela Werner, MPH

Community Engagement Research Associate

University of Hawaii - John A. Burns School of Medicine

Department of Native Hawaiian Health

677 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 1016-B #13

Honolulu, HI 96813

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 27

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

Honorable Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chairs Chang and Nishimoto and members of the committees, I am Samantha Herrera, a social worker, and a staff member of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s John A. Burns School of Medicine’s Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 27. This bill would appropriate monies to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai‘i’s entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Poor oral health affects a person’s ability to eat, speak, work, communicate, and learn. Unlike other states, Hawai‘i does not have an ongoing and routine system for assessing the oral health of its residents - there is no dental public health program with the State Department of Health.
- Hawai‘i received a failing grade of “F” in three recent oral health report cards published by The Pew Center. According to the Department of Health’s Hawai‘i Oral Health: Key Findings report published in August 2015, there are substantial dental health disparities among low-income residents, pregnant women, neighbor island counties.
- Fluoride added to community drinking water sources is a safe, inexpensive and extremely effective method of preventing tooth decay across all age groups. However, only 11% of Hawai‘i residents have fluoridated water compared to 75% for the United States as a whole.
- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai‘i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults. Fifty-one percent (51%) of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did so.

- Because many Hawai‘i residents are unable to afford dental care or schedule a dental appointment, they end up seeking care at a hospital emergency department, although dental services are not generally available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000, compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006, due in part to the increased number of visits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Samantha Herrera
Department of Native Hawaiian Health
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Email: sherrera@hawaii.edu
Office: 808-692-1076

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 27

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

Honorable Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chairs Chang and Nishimoto and members of the committees, I am Dr. Andrea Hermosura, a Clinical Psychologist, and an Assistant Professor of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 27. This bill would appropriate monies to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

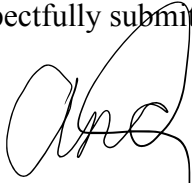
I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Poor oral health affects a person's ability to eat, speak, work, communicate, and learn. Unlike other states, Hawai'i does not have an ongoing and routine system for assessing the oral health of its residents - there is no dental public health program with the State Department of Health.
- Hawai'i received a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report cards published by The Pew Center. According to the Department of Health's Hawai'i Oral Health: Key Findings report published in August 2015, there are substantial dental health disparities among low-income residents, pregnant women, neighbor island counties.
- Fluoride added to community drinking water sources is a safe, inexpensive and extremely effective method of preventing tooth decay across all age groups. However, only 11% of Hawai'i residents have fluoridated water compared to 75% for the United States as a whole.
- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults. Fifty-one percent (51%) of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did so.

- Because many Hawai'i residents are unable to afford dental care or schedule a dental appointment, they end up seeking care at a hospital emergency department, although dental services are not generally available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000, compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006, due in part to the increased number of visits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea', written over the text 'Respectfully submitted by,'.

Andrea Hermosura, PhD
Assistant Professor
Clinical Psychologist
677 Ala Moana Blvd, #1016
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808)692-1059
nacapoy@hawaii.edu

ROBIN E.S. MIYAMOTO
919 WAIHOLO STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96821
TEL (808) 692-1050 FAX (808) 531-4380

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 27

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

Honorable Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chairs Chang and Nishimoto and members of the committees, I am Robin Miyamoto, a Clinical Psychologist working in Kaka‘ako and Mililani and I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 27. This bill would appropriate monies to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

As a Clinical Psychologist working primarily with a Medicaid/Medicare population, I am often witness to the struggles of my patients who are not able to get simple dental care, resulting in infections and lost teeth. They cannot afford dentures and usually end up missing multiple teeth that affects their ability to eat healthy foods as well as to find gainful employment.

As a staff member of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the University of Mānoa’s John A. Burns School of Medicine Department of Native Hawaiian Health, I helped to develop and organize the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force. The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai‘i’s entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Poor oral health affects a person’s ability to eat, speak, work, communicate, and learn. Unlike other states, Hawai‘i does not have an ongoing and routine system for assessing the oral health of its residents - there is no dental public health program with the State Department of Health.

- Hawai‘i received a failing grade of “F” in three recent oral health report cards published by The Pew Center. According to the Department of Health’s Hawai‘i Oral Health: Key Findings report published in August 2015, there are substantial dental health disparities among low-income residents, pregnant women, neighbor island counties.
- Fluoride added to community drinking water sources is a safe, inexpensive and extremely effective method of preventing tooth decay across all age groups. However, only 11% of Hawai‘i residents have fluoridated water compared to 75% for the United States as a whole.
- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai‘i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults. Fifty-one percent (51%) of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did so.
- Because many Hawai‘i residents are unable to afford dental care or schedule a dental appointment, they end up seeking care at a hospital emergency department, although dental services are not generally available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000, compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006, due in part to the increased number of visits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,



Robin E. S. Miyamoto, Psy.D.
919 Waiholo St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821
Office: 808-692-1012
Fax: 808-587-8576
robinemi@hawaii.edu

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 27

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

Honorable Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chairs Chang and Nishimoto and members of the committees, I am Annette Jones, a Native Hawaiian Research Lab Manager, and a staff member of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 27. This bill would appropriate monies to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Poor oral health affects a person's ability to eat, speak, work, communicate, and learn. Unlike other states, Hawai'i does not have an ongoing and routine system for assessing the oral health of its residents - there is no dental public health program with the State Department of Health.
- Hawai'i received a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report cards published by The Pew Center. According to the Department of Health's Hawai'i Oral Health: Key Findings report published in August 2015, there are substantial dental health disparities among low-income residents, pregnant women, neighbor island counties.
- Fluoride added to community drinking water sources is a safe, inexpensive and extremely effective method of preventing tooth decay across all age groups. However, only 11% of Hawai'i residents have fluoridated water compared to 75% for the United States as a whole.
- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults. 110 Fifty-one percent (51%) of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did so.

● Because many Hawai'i residents are unable to afford dental care or schedule a dental appointment, they end up seeking care at a hospital emergency department, although dental services are not generally available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000, compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006, due in part to the increased number of visits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,


Annette Jones

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 27

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

Honorable Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chairs Chang and Nishimoto and members of the committees, I am Chantal Keliihoomalu, a Graduate Assistant, and a staff member of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's (UHM) John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Native Hawaiian Health and a UHM student in the Masters of Social Work program in University of Hawai'i Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 27. This bill would appropriate monies to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Poor oral health affects a person's ability to eat, speak, work, communicate, and learn. Unlike other states, Hawai'i does not have an ongoing and routine system for assessing the oral health of its residents - there is no dental public health program with the State Department of Health.
- Hawai'i received a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report cards published by The Pew Center. According to the Department of Health's Hawai'i Oral Health: Key Findings report published in August 2015, there are substantial dental health disparities among low-income residents, pregnant women, neighbor island counties.
- Fluoride added to community drinking water sources is a safe, inexpensive and extremely effective method of preventing tooth decay across all age groups. However, only 11% of Hawai'i residents have fluoridated water compared to 75% for the United States as a whole.
- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults. Fifty-one percent (51%) of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did so.

- Because many Hawai'i residents are unable to afford dental care or schedule a dental appointment, they end up seeking care at a hospital emergency department, although dental services are not generally available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000, compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006, due in part to the increased number of visits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chantal Keliihoomalu

chantalk@hawaii.edu

808-358-4215

Graduate Assistant DNHH

Masters student UHM Myron B. Thompson school of Social Work



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 pm

By

David Lassner, Interim Chancellor

And

Jerris Hedges, MD., Dean

With

Dr. Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula
Professor and Chair of Native Hawaiian Health
John A Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 27 – RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE BASIC ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES

Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chairs Chang and Nishihara and members of the committees, UH leadership wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 27. This bill would appropriate monies to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill for numerous reasons:

- Poor oral health affects a person's ability to eat, speak, work, communicate, and learn. Unlike other states, Hawai'i does not have an ongoing and routine system for assessing the oral health of its residents - there is no dental public health program with the State Department of Health.
- Hawai'i received a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report cards published by The Pew Center. According to the Department of Health's Hawai'i Oral Health: Key Findings report published in August 2015, there are substantial dental health disparities among low-income residents, pregnant women, neighbor island counties.

- Fluoride added to community drinking water sources is a safe, inexpensive and extremely effective method of preventing tooth decay across all age groups. However, only 11% of Hawai'i residents have fluoridated water compared to 75% for the United States as a whole.
- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults. Fifty-one percent (51%) of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did so.
- Because many Hawai'i residents are unable to afford dental care or schedule a dental appointment, they end up seeking care at a hospital emergency department, although dental services are not generally available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000, compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006, due in part to the increased number of visits.

Thank you for your consideration.



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
January 23, 2017

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
and

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,
and Health

Twenty-Ninth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Green, Senator Baker, 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 SB 27.

The Honorable Josh Green
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Page 2
January 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



Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 016

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

To: Chair Josh Green
Vice Chair Stanley Chang

Chair Rosalyn H. Baker
Vice Chair Clarence K. Nishihara

From: Beth Hoban
Chair
Healthcare Association of Hawaii Board of Directors

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 committees 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 3:00 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: dshaw@lanaicommunityhealthcenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB27 on Jan 23, 2017 14:50PM

SB27

Submitted on: 1/20/2017

Testimony for HMS/CPH on Jan 23, 2017 14:50PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana Shaw	Lanai Community Health Center	Support	No

Comments: I urge you to support this bill. Oral health has too long been neglected by the State - without proper and PREVENTITIVE care, individuals are at increased risk for serious, costly health issues. Supporting - AND FUNDING - this bill will decrease overall health cost, and unnecessary ER visits.

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 27

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

Honorable Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chairs Chang and Nishimoto and members of the committees, I am Mahina Duarte, a Hawai'i Island Charter School Principal, and member of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 27. This bill would appropriate monies to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Poor oral health affects a person's ability to eat, speak, work, communicate, and learn. Unlike other states, Hawai'i does not have an ongoing and routine system for assessing the oral health of its residents - there is no dental public health program with the State Department of Health.
- Hawai'i received a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report cards published by The Pew Center. According to the Department of Health's Hawai'i Oral Health: Key Findings report published in August 2015, there are substantial dental health disparities among low-income residents, pregnant women, neighbor island counties.
- Fluoride added to community drinking water sources is a safe, inexpensive and extremely effective method of preventing tooth decay across all age groups. However, only 11% of Hawai'i residents have fluoridated water compared to 75% for the United States as a whole.
- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults. Fifty-one percent (51%) of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did so.
- Because many Hawai'i residents are unable to afford dental care or schedule a dental appointment, they end up seeking care at a hospital emergency department, although dental

services are not generally available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000, compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006, due in part to the increased number of visits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mahina Duarte

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 27

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

Honorable Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chairs Chang and Nishimoto and members of the committees, I am D. Kamahanahokulani a concerned citizen and member of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 27. This bill would appropriate monies to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Poor oral health affects a person's ability to eat, speak, work, communicate, and learn. Unlike other states, Hawai'i does not have an ongoing and routine system for assessing the oral health of its residents - there is no dental public health program with the State Department of Health.
- Hawai'i received a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report cards published by The Pew Center. According to the Department of Health's Hawai'i Oral Health: Key Findings report published in August 2015, there are substantial dental health disparities among low-income residents, pregnant women, neighbor island counties.
- Fluoride added to community drinking water sources is a safe, inexpensive and extremely effective method of preventing tooth decay across all age groups. However, only 11% of Hawai'i residents have fluoridated water compared to 75% for the United States as a whole.
- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults. 110 Fifty-one percent (51%) of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while

only 32% of high-income adults did so. **I have recently moved my 83 year old uncle home with me from the Big Island. I recognize I must begin addressing his basic care. I am shocked to find he has not seen a dentist in 16 years.**

- Because many Hawai‘i residents are unable to afford dental care or schedule a dental appointment, they end up seeking care at a hospital emergency department, although dental services are not generally available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000, compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006, due in part to the increased number of visits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

D. Kamahanahokulani Farrar



January 23, 2017

To: The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair Senate Committee on Human Services

To: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

From: Dr. Sheri Daniels, Executive Director

RE: SB27 - Restoring Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid - Testimony

POSITION: Papa Ola Lōkahi (POL) 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.

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.

Papa Ola Lōkahi appreciates and supports the restoration of a basic oral health benefit for adult Medicaid and QUEST Integration Native Hawaiian 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 diabetes.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 27

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

Honorable Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chairs Chang and Nishimoto and members of the committees, I am Sheri Daniels, Executive Director of Papa Ola Lōkahi, and member of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 27. This bill would appropriate monies to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Poor oral health affects a person's ability to eat, speak, work, communicate, and learn. Unlike other states, Hawai'i does not have an ongoing and routine system for assessing the oral health of its residents - there is no dental public health program with the State Department of Health.
- Hawai'i received a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report cards published by The Pew Center. According to the Department of Health's Hawai'i Oral Health: Key Findings report published in August 2015, there are substantial dental health disparities among low-income residents, pregnant women, neighbor island counties.
- Fluoride added to community drinking water sources is a safe, inexpensive and extremely effective method of preventing tooth decay across all age groups. However, only 11% of Hawai'i residents have fluoridated water compared to 75% for the United States as a whole.
- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults. 110 Fifty-one percent (51%) of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did so.
- Because many Hawai'i residents are unable to afford dental care or schedule a dental appointment, they end up seeking care at a hospital emergency department, although dental services are not generally available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room

visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000, compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006, due in part to the increased number of visits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sheri Daniels, EdD

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 3:27 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: selahjoy350@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB27 on Jan 23, 2017 14:50PM

SB27

Submitted on: 1/20/2017

Testimony for HMS/CPH on Jan 23, 2017 14:50PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
June Munoz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB 27 because in my work as a community outreach worker for a nonprofit health organization I see a great need on our island for all areas of dental services. This bill would bring relief from pain and suffering to many.

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Monday, January 23, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 27

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

Honorable Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chairs Chang and Nishimoto and members of the committees, I am a health researcher and a DrPH candidate at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa and I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 27. This bill would appropriate monies to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

As a public health professional working in health research with a focus on Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, as well as maternal and child health issues, I’m fully aware of the need for adequate and appropriate dental care and the relationship to overall health, particularly as it relates to healthy pregnancies and the health and wellness of our youngest keiki. While this focus is on adult dental services is not specific to the populations mentioned above, I believe this bill will have a broad positive impact and will benefit a range of individuals, families and communities. By putting funds toward this health concern, we make it explicit that dental health should be a priority for individuals and service providers. This measure will improve access for *all* members of someone’s ‘ohana to seek and receive dental care.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Poor oral health affects a person’s ability to eat, speak, work, communicate, and learn. Unlike other states, Hawai‘i does not have an ongoing and routine system for assessing the oral health of its residents - there is no dental public health program with the State Department of Health.
- Hawai‘i received a failing grade of “F” in three recent oral health report cards published by The Pew Center. According to the Department of Health’s Hawai‘i Oral Health: Key Findings report published in August 2015, there are substantial dental health disparities among low-income residents, pregnant women, neighbor island counties.
- Fluoride added to community drinking water sources is a safe, inexpensive and extremely effective method of preventing tooth decay across all age groups. However, only 11% of Hawai‘i residents have fluoridated water compared to 75% for the United States as a whole.

- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults.110 Fifty-one percent (51%) of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did so.
- Because many Hawai'i residents are unable to afford dental care or schedule a dental appointment, they end up seeking care at a hospital emergency department, although dental services are not generally available there. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000, compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006, due in part to the increased number of visits.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical health concern for the families and communities of Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rebecca Delafield, MPH, DrPH (candidate)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 3:26 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: mbelardo@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB27 on Jan 23, 2017 14:50PM

SB27

Submitted on: 1/20/2017

Testimony for HMS/CPH on Jan 23, 2017 14:50PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Teresa Belardo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There is a great need in our community for restoring the basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees. Therefore, I strongly support, and encourage you to please pass SB 27. Mahalo!

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 3:12 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: mary@mauivortex.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB27 on Jan 23, 2017 14:50PM

SB27

Submitted on: 1/23/2017

Testimony for HMS/CPH on Jan 23, 2017 14:50PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Overbay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I support this SB27. Please provide Hawaii's poor citizens with dental care. It is proven that long term dental infections cause very expensive diseases like kidney and heart problems, so proper dental care can actually save big dollars in long run. It is heartbreaking to see our kupuna suffering pain. Please help.

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



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

January 23, 2017

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB 27

Relating to Oral Health

Monday, January 23, 2017, Room 016

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.

We are encouraged that there are dental funds in this bill to restore to the adult dental benefit. It is very important that oral health be at the forefront of health care as many dental problems lead to more serious health deficits and basic dental is not just for cosmetic effect.

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

Respectfully Requested,

David Peters
Chief Executive Officer