

# SB3010

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO DENTAL HEALTH.

**Report Title:** Dental Health; Virtual Dental Home; Hawaii Medicaid Dental Program; Telehealth; Covered Procedures

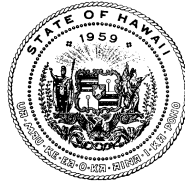
**Description:** Supports the sustainability of the Hawaii virtual dental home pilot projects by ensuring providers who use certain telehealth procedures and apply caries arresting medications are reimbursed for doing so and clarifying that, for purposes of billing and payment, procedures performed using certain telehealth technologies are equivalent to those procedures performed in person.

**Companion:**

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** CPH/HMS, WAM

**Introducer(s):** BAKER, ESPERO, INOUYE, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI, RUDERMAN, S. Chang, English, K. Kahele



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 3010**  
**Relating to Dental Health**

**SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**  
**SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing Date: February 5, 2018

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None to the Department of Health. The Department defers to the  
2 Department of Human Services on program and fiscal implications of S.B. 3010.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of this bill and offers  
4 comments on S.B. 3010. Although we support the intent of this measure to improve dental access  
5 to care and better oral health for children, the bill is not needed based on our conversations with  
6 the Department of Human Services, MEDQUEST Division that address the issues in this  
7 measure.

8 The virtual dental home is a new and innovative delivery-of-care system that has the  
9 potential to significantly improve the oral health and access to dental care for the residents of  
10 Hawaii. The Hawaii virtual dental home pilot project was developed and implemented to  
11 improve access to dental care by using telehealth connected dental teams to provide dental  
12 services in rural communities where people live, learn, and socialize.

13 The results of this pilot project indicate the virtual dental home system is adaptable in  
14 Hawaii, and very effective in providing dental care and education to the underserved and  
15 vulnerable populations in community settings, such as Head Start and Women, Infant and  
16 Children (WIC) program sites. In addition to the focus on early preventive services, the virtual  
17 dental home provides a positive dental experience for the children in a comfortable and familiar  
18 community surroundings. This is also a cost-effective system in delivering dental care in

1 community settings. Since September 2016, a total of 487 teledentistry visits resulted in 364  
2 children being treated in the community setting. Additionally, 66 children were referred to a  
3 dentist for advanced treatment, with 42 of them being seen by the dentist, and 23 completing  
4 treatment. The success of the Hawaii Island virtual dental home pilot project, in Kona, led to the  
5 expansion of this pilot project to the island of Maui this year.

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



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health  
and Committee on Human Services  
Monday, February 5, 2018 at 3:10 p.m.

by

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN  
Dean and Professor

School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene

And

Michael Bruno, PhD

Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 3010 – RELATING TO DENTAL HEALTH

Chairs Baker and Green, Vice Chairs Tokuda and Chang, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and the Senate Committee on Human Services, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3010 relating to dental health.

This bill supports the sustainability of the Hawai'i virtual dental home pilot projects by ensuring providers who use certain telehealth procedures and apply caries arresting medications are reimbursed for doing so.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (SONDH) recognizes that increasing access to oral health services for underserved and Medicaid populations is a priority for action. Recognizing this need, the SONDH applied and received a competitive DHHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant, "Utilization of the Expanded Function Dental Hygienist (EFDH) to Improve Oral Health Outcomes for Children 0-5 Years of Age in Hawai'i", from 2017 to 2022. The project goal is to increase the dental workforce serving children 0-5 years of age in underserved areas by developing a post-baccalaureate EFDH certificate program for licensed dental hygienists, and to increase the bachelor's prepared student's knowledge and comfort in providing pediatric dental hygiene services to the community. However, this effort alone is not sufficient to meet state needs. Telehealth via the University of the Pacific's School of Dentistry project allows access to oral health and ensures that dental hygiene can practice in such settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 3010.

**SB-3010**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:12:52 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/5/2018 3:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association supports SB3010. Due to an overwhelming decay rate and an access to care issue throughout the state, Teledentistry is an excellent means to reach the underserved. thank you for your consideration of this important solution.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 2, 2018

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

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3010 - RELATING TO DENTAL HEALTH**

Hearing: Monday, February 5, 2018; 3:10 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers comments on this bill.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to support the sustainability of the Hawaii virtual dental home pilot projects by ensuring providers who use certain telehealth procedures and apply caries arresting medications are reimbursed for doing so, and clarifying that, for purposes of billing and payment, procedures performed using certain telehealth technologies are equivalent to those procedures performed in person.

The State's Medicaid program does provide coverage of telehealth for dental procedures that were issued and distributed to dental providers on or about May 2, 2017.

DHS has reservations regarding including specific procedure codes in statute. One primary reason is that the organization responsible for issuing procedure codes utilized by all medical and dental providers, adds and deletes procedure codes yearly. While some codes

remain the same other codes are deleted due to new treatments or procedures. Therefore to have specific procedure codes fixed in statute will make it more difficult to promptly modify codes if future changes require an act of the legislature.

DHS has been working and discussing tele-dentistry and the Federally Qualified Community Health (FQHC) prospective payment system (PPS) payments with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and we have resolved this issue. We will be clarifying this shortly.

Finally, we have been in discussions with the Department of Health, the dental community, and CMS regarding both topics. Thus, we support the intent of this measure to improve dental care for children; however, DHS believes that the bill is not needed at this time as we are already working on the areas addressed by this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



## Hawaii Dental Association

To: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
The Senate Committee on Human Services

Time/Date: 3:10p.m., February 5, 2018

Location: Capitol Conference Room 16

Re: SB 3010, Relating to Dental Health

Aloha Chair Baker, Chair Green, Vice Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Chang and members of the committees! My name is Dr. Robert Baysa and I serve as the president of the Hawaii Dental Association, a professional association comprised of approximately 950-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.

The purpose of SB 3010 is to support the sustainability of the Hawaii virtual dental home pilot projects by ensuring providers who use certain telehealth procedures and apply caries arresting medications are reimbursed for doing so and clarifying that, for purposes of billing and payment, procedures performed using certain telehealth technologies are equivalent to those procedures performed in person. HDA generally supports exploring innovations that promote access to care and we wish to be part of the conversation should this bill advance. We would like to continue to work together with legislators to ensure that adequate protections are in place for Hawaii consumers.

We appreciate the legislature's support of the dentistry profession and we look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you. Mahalo for this opportunity to comment on SB 3010.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Robert Baysa, D.D.S  
President, Hawaii Dental Association





February 5, 2018

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **SB 3010 – Relating to Dental Health**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 16, February 5, 2018, 3:10 PM**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support SB 3010 – Relating to Dental Health.**

Hawaii's children have the highest rate of tooth decay in the nation. This is particularly true for children in low-income households who reside in rural areas. These figures underscore the need to expand access to comprehensive dental care services, especially for underserved and vulnerable communities. Hawaii has made efforts to address this problem through programs such as the virtual dental home, a community-based delivery of care system that uses telehealth-connected dental teams to provide dental services and dental education in underserved communities. This measure would support the sustainability of the program to help ensure that Hawaii's keiki are receiving the dental care they need.

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests your Committees to support this measure.**

*HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.*

**SB-3010**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:40:08 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/5/2018 3:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erica Yamauchi	Hawaii Children's Action Network	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to offer my support for SB3010, to ensure that children in rural communities have access to quality dental care. Hawaii suffers from overall poor dental health outcomes, particularly in our rural areas. This lack of access does not only drive poor general oral health, it also means that treatments will tend to be more expensive and painful when they are obtained, and may cause or exacerbate other health problems.

Access to dental health professionals is critical, particularly among children in these communities. I ask that you support this effort to expand access to dental care for our keiki.

Erica Yamauchi, Hawaii Children's Action Network (Wilhelmina Rise/Kaimuki)

**SB-3010**

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 3:23:50 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/5/2018 3:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diane Brucato		Support	No

Comments:

This testimony is in support of SB3010 with amendment. This bill ensures sustainability of community teledentistry programs by ensuring payment for services and quality of care. To further ensure public safety, please consider amendment of Page 3, Line 1 by adding the word "licensed" to read:

(1) Ensuring "**LICENSED**" providers who...

Thank you very much for your consideration and attention to this small and important detail.

Respectfully,

Diane M. Brucato, RDH, EF, BS, FAADH