



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:

December 26, 2019

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Annual Report on Dental Health Activities, Expenditures, and Recommendations pursuant to §321-63 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

In accordance with Section 93-16, HRS, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at:

<https://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/department-of-health-reports-to-2020-legislature/>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce S. Anderson".

Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D.
Director of Health

Enclosures

REPORT TO THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

**STATE OF HAWAII
2020**

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 321-63
HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

**REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON DENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES,
EXPENDITURES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**



PREPARED BY:

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

December 2019

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DIVISION HOSPITAL & COMMUNITY DENTAL SERVICES BRANCH

Executive Summary:

The Hospital & Community Dental Services Branch (HCDSB) is the only state dental public health agency in the state that provides direct dental treatment services. The HCDSB primarily provides dental treatment service for individuals with disabilities and other special needs persons who lack access to private sector services. The HCDSB is organizationally placed in the Developmental Disabilities Division.

Program Objective:

HCDSB's objective is to help ensure access to basic dental care services for persons that are aged, blind, and disabled which limit their access to dental treatment. These include persons with severe chronic mental illness, frail elderly persons who are medically fragile, and individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Program Activities:

Direct Dental Services

Dental care services are provided by the HCDSB personnel to patients that reside at Hawaii State institutions, including Hawaii State Hospital, Leahi Hospital, and Kalaupapa Settlement, as well as to patients who reside in the community. The HCDSB has five (5) dental clinics located at the Department's Health Centers on Oahu: Diamond Head, Lanakila, Leeward, Windward, and the Hawaii State Hospital. Currently there are no dental clinics located on the Neighbor Islands.

Over the past year, the HCDSB provided clinical services for 1,401 individuals who otherwise do not have access to private sector dental services. The dental clinics completed a total of 14,475 dental procedures in the past year. Patients seen by the HCDSB clinics include:

36%	Persons with a mental health disability
39%	Persons with I/DD
14%	Hawaii State Hospital patients
21%	Persons aged 65 years and older

Community Collaboration

The HCDSB staff collaborates and works with State and private agency personnel in the coordination of programs designed to enhance the community dental infrastructure for access to dental treatment in the state. The collaborative focus is primarily on the Neighbor Islands where the geography of Hawaii exacerbates problems in accessing dental health services and there is an uneven distribution of oral health resources.

The HCDSB collaborates with the following programs including but not limited to:

- University of Hawaii School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene at Manoa;
- University of Hawaii, Maui College, Dental Hygiene Program;
- University of the Pacific, Dental School, Pacific Center for Special Care;
- Hawaii Oral Health Coalition;
- West Hawaii Community Health Center;
- Hui No Ke Ola Pono, Community Health Center;
- Women Infant Children Programs;
- Early Head Start and Head Start Programs;
- Hale Makua Health Services;
- Kula Hospital;
- Queen's Medical Center General Practice Dental Residency Program;
- Hawaii Dental Association;
- Hawaii Dental Hygiene Association;
- Hawaii Special Olympics;
- Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
- Department of Human Services;
- Hawaii Primary Care Association; and
- Community Health Centers.

Over the past year, the HCDSB staff collaborated with the oral health stakeholders to address the following dental areas:

- 1) State oral health disparities (especially the Neighbor Islands);
- 2) Tele-dentistry Pilot Project;
- 3) Statewide Oral health trainings related to persons with I/DD and the elderly; and
- 4) Contract with The Queen's Medical Center Dental Residency Program for the provision of care for patients with disabilities or conditions that are medically fragile, or both.

Virtual Dental Home Pilot Project

The HCDSB has identified significant disparities in access to oral health services which have been well-documented in Hawaii. While these disparities are common in many states they are magnified in Hawaii by the following areas of concern:

- 1) The geography of Hawaii exacerbates access problems and there is an uneven distribution of oral health resources;
- 2) General dentists, dental specialists, and resources for sedation and anesthesia for dental care are concentrated on Oahu;
- 3) The community water supply in Hawaii does not contain fluoride; and
- 4) There are a limited number of dentists who participate and accept patients eligible for the State Medicaid Dental Program.

As a consequence of these and other factors Hawaii has a history of ranking among the worst states for dental health in the country for many groups including children and adults with complex medical problems and disabilities.

Since 2015, the HCDSB has been providing technical and administrative support for the Hawaii Virtual Dental Home (VDH) Pilot Project. The HCDSB concluded that this system can be an effective way to address Hawaii's oral health disparities for the underserved and vulnerable populations.

In the past year, the Hawaii Dental Service Foundation awarded the West Hawaii Community Health Center (WHCHC) a grant to continue the VDH pilot project on the Hawaii Island (Kona). This grant is for the fourth and final year of a four (4) year pilot project.

The Hawaii Island VDH pilot project focuses on providing dental education and dental care for children age zero (0) to five (5) years old at community sites such as Head Start and Women Infant Children (WIC) programs. Since September 2016, early preventive dental services and oral health education was provided at the West Hawaii Head Start Programs (3), WIC program (1), Tutu & Me Traveling preschool, and Uluwini transitional housing. Over 1000 children have received dental services via this pilot project.

The WHCHC's cost analysis has found that the VDH program is financially sustainable without grant funding. The WHCHC plans are to continue the VDH program and expand services to public elementary schools.

Based upon the success of the Hawaii Island VDH pilot project, the Native Hawaiian Health, Hui No Ke Ola Pono Community Health Center (HNKOP) was awarded a grant from the Hawaii Dental Service Foundation to expand the VDH pilot project to the island of Maui. The Maui VDH pilot project is in second year of a three (3) year pilot project.

The Maui VDH pilot project focuses on not only providing dental care and education for children age zero (0) to five (5) years old at community sites such as Early Head Start, Head Start and Women Infant Children (WIC) programs, but also provide dental care to the elderly at the Hale Makua Health Services facilities and the Kula Hospital. The HNKOP is collaborating with the Pacific Center and HCDSB on providing dental care to the programs described above. In addition, the University of Hawaii, Maui College, Dental Hygiene Program has implemented a rotation for dental hygiene students at the VDH sites.

The goals of the VDH pilot project are to:

- Demonstrate the effectiveness of the VDH given unique needs of Hawaii;
- Reach and provide diagnostic and preventive dental services to underserved populations that traditionally postpone dental care;
- Connect dentists virtually with dental hygienists in public health sites; and
- Provide services at a far lower cost than the traditional dental office.

Oral Health Trainings

The HCDSB is aware of the need for oral health training for families, caregivers and oral health professionals who provide care and treat persons with I/DD and the elderly. Therefore, the HCDSB developed two training presentations addressing the following areas: 1) oral health awareness and oral hygiene practices for care providers and families of persons with I/DD and the elderly; and 2) dental treatment considerations for oral health professionals when treating persons with I/DD and the elderly.

The HCDSB conducted its fourth annual oral health training presentations statewide. In the past year, training presentations were conducted on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, and Oahu. Training was provided at nursing homes, residential adult living facilities, and community centers. A total of 610 individuals attended these presentations.

The HCDSB has also developed and implemented an oral health training module for caregivers of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities that is accessible on the Development Disabilities Division's website as a dental resource.

Problems and Issues Encountered by the Program:

Access to dental services continues to be the primary issue for statewide oral health. Medicaid recipients and other low income residents, and medically compromised individuals have limited access to dental care from private sector dental care providers. Patients are referred to the HCDSB by other State public health and social service agencies and private sector health care providers for dental treatment. Presently, the HCDSB does not operate dental clinics on the Neighbor Islands where access to essential emergency dental care (to relieve pain and infection) is limited. The capacity of Hawaii's system of community health center dental clinics is limited and individuals with I/DD have limited access to care at these community health centers.

Program Recommendations:

The HCDSB will continue to work and collaborate with private sector providers, community health centers, and other oral health stakeholders by making them aware of the problems faced by the uninsured and under-insured population in accessing dental treatment services. The HCDSB will also further evaluate the various oral health care models implemented by other states to address Hawaii's access of care challenges. We will continue to advocate support for those who need, but do not have access to dental care.

Total HCDSB Budgeted for FY2019:

Position Count: 12.00 FTE

Personnel Services: \$ 927,061

Contract: \$200,000, The Queen's Medical Center Dental Residency Program

Other Current Expenses: \$112,075

Total \$1,239,136

FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Oral Health Disease Prevention five-year grant ended on August 31, 2018. Key programs activities were suspended.

Personnel:

- All three temporary/exempt/federally funded positions expired at the end of the grant on August 31, 2018

Ongoing Oral Health Assurance Activities of Other FHSD Programs:

- Contract with 16 health service programs (including the Federally Qualified Health Centers) to provide primary care services for the uninsured and under-insured that includes dental treatment services (Office of Primary Care and Rural Health)
- Monitor workforce shortages including dental services and establish federal designations for health professional shortage areas (Office of Primary Care and Rural Health)
- Aligned Maternal Child Health five-year plan with oral health program activities to include oral health evidence-based strategies targeting an improvement in access and utilization of preventive dental visits for children and pregnant women (Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant)

Position Count: 0 FTE

Total: \$0.00

Means of Funding: N/A