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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON  
THE REIMPLEMENTATION OF ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS FOR HAWAII  
RESIDENTS WHO ARE MEDICAID ENROLLEES.

1           WHEREAS, access to regular dental care varies greatly  
2 across the State, with many rural and neighbor island residents  
3 and low-income families experiencing less access to regular  
4 dental care than other residents; and  
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6           WHEREAS, the lack of access to dental insurance coverage  
7 and dental care is a social justice issue that  
8 disproportionately affects the poor, children, the elderly, and  
9 racial and ethnic minority groups; and  
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11           WHEREAS, poor oral health can negatively impact an  
12 individual's general health and self-image and has been linked  
13 to an array of acute and chronic health conditions, including  
14 heart disease, diabetes, strokes, depression, low birth weight,  
15 premature births, and oral diseases; and  
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17           WHEREAS, oral diseases are a significant health problem  
18 that affects the overall health and well-being of many Hawaii  
19 residents; and  
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21           WHEREAS, untreated oral diseases can result in a decrease  
22 in or loss of workplace productivity due to absenteeism, under-  
23 employment, and unemployment; and  
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25           WHEREAS, the prevalence of oral diseases and tooth loss is  
26 disproportionately high among low-income residents, especially  
27 among Medicaid enrollees; and  
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29           WHEREAS, receiving dental insurance coverage is a key  
30 factor in an individual's ability to access dental care; and



1 WHEREAS, insufficient dental insurance coverage or access  
2 to dental care may result in more severe health conditions and  
3 higher costs, further disadvantaging Medicaid enrollees; and  
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5 WHEREAS, studies have shown that reducing or eliminating  
6 Medicaid adult dental benefits has led to significant national  
7 increases in dental-related emergency room visits and associated  
8 costs; and  
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10 WHEREAS, it has been nearly a decade since the State  
11 removed all non-emergency Medicaid adult dental benefits; and  
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13 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the State to  
14 consider restoring dental benefits, including diagnostic,  
15 preventive, and restorative dental benefits, and to expand  
16 access to care for adult Medicaid enrollees; now, therefore,  
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
19 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
20 2020, the Department of Human Services is urged to conduct a  
21 study on the reimplementation of adult dental benefits for  
22 Hawaii residents who are Medicaid enrollees; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include:  
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- 26 (1) A range of adult Medicaid dental benefit options,  
27 including coverage of basic, comprehensive, and  
28 population specific benefits and coverage offered by  
29 other states for diagnostic, preventive, and  
30 restorative dental services;  
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- 32 (2) The estimated cost to the State's Medicaid program for  
33 each option, including any costs that qualify for  
34 federal matching funds;  
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- 36 (3) A projection, to the best of the Department of Human  
37 Services' ability, of the long-term financial benefit  
38 of reimplementing adult dental benefits for Medicaid  
39 enrollees; and  
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- 41 (4) Feedback from the community and stakeholders; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Human Services is  
 2 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
 3 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
 4 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 5 the Regular Session of 2021; and

6  
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 8 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Human  
 9 Services, and Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY:

*[Handwritten signatures and names, including: David Carnas, Tim Winger, Nicole E. Lora, Richard Lora, De Het, John D. ...]*



H.R. NO. 70

George P. ...  
Val ...

Ch. ...

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