



February 20, 2019 at 10:05 am
Conference Room 211

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
Director of Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
SB 467, Making an Appropriation to Restore 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 170 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 committee for the opportunity to **support** this measure, 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 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.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 467: Making an Appropriation to Restore Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and Members, Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in support** of SB 467, which makes an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to restore adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees. I am Betty Lou Larson, with Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 70 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawaii.

We support this bill since poor oral health can have a serious impact on peoples' overall health and their ability to live productive lives. We have found a number of kupuna who do not have access to primary dental care. Even with the knowledge that special programs like Kupuna Smiles provides, these seniors cannot afford to see a dentist. It is also of great concern for the homeless who already are at high risk of ill health due to their unstable living situations. Lack of dental care affects a wide range of Hawaii residents since access to regular oral health care varies greatly across the State. **Our rural and neighbor island residents and persons/families with lower incomes have disproportionate access issues.**

In 2009, Hawaii's adult dental benefits were removed. Data shows that this is having a significant impact on our residents. There were over 3,000 ER visits for acute oral health conditions in 2016, totaling over \$17 million in direct costs. Compare this with 1,800 visits to the ER in 2006, with \$4 million in costs. Medicaid beneficiaries constitute over half (53%) of the dental emergencies seen, statewide, in emergency rooms.

Restoring adult dental benefits could cut costs by diverting an estimated 79% of ER dental visits to community settings, with a much lower cost. An emergency seen by a community dentist costs an estimated 48% of the cost of an ER treatment.

Good oral health is important since it can improve the beneficiaries' ability to obtain and maintain employment and engage with others.

We urge your support of this bill to enhance the dental and overall health of Hawaii's residents.

Please contact me at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



SB-467

Submitted on: 2/15/2019 11:03:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana Shaw	Testifying for Lanai Community Health Center	Support	Yes

Comments:



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 20, 2019; 10:05 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

RE: COMMENTING ON SENATE BILL NO. 0467, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **COMMENTS** on Senate Bill No. 0467, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal years 2019-2021, to restore preventative and restorative adult dental benefits to medicaid enrollees. The bill would also require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to obtain the maximum federal matching funds available for this expenditure, and take effect on July 1, 2019.

Over the past seven legislative sessions, the HPCA has urged the Legislature to appropriate additional funds to HMS401 for the reinstatement of adult dental Medicaid coverage, without success. As such, during the 2018 Regular Session, we offered an alternative solution for your consideration. Last year, we believed additional funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 were not necessary because it was our contention that there were sufficient resources within HMS401 to reinstate this essential benefit immediately.

Our position has not changed and we continue to assert that there are sufficient resources in HMS401 to reinstate the benefit immediately.

Based on our review of the Ige Administration's disclosures, it would appear that there are sufficient funds to reinstate this benefit immediately. Also, because this is the reinstatement of a pre-existing benefit, and that no additional statutory authorization is needed for DHS to reinstate the benefit, any subsequent change in resources for this benefit could be incorporated into the "base" budget so that future adjustments could be made citing "changes in utilization" as DHS did this year.

Furthermore, because of the scale of the appropriations in HMS401, DHS has more options at its disposal to ensure that funds are available for this benefit.

If the Legislature continues to find merit in DHS' plea for additional resources for the reinstatement of this benefit, we offer for your consideration this -- deny DHS's request to reduce the budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 in Line Item HMS401 by \$16,511,000 in general funds. This amount is more than what the Administration requested in all means of financing last year for the reinstatement of the benefit.

If DHS believes it needs even more funding the following year, they can request it in the Supplemental Budget. However, at that time, DHS will need to reconcile their projected increases with the actual amounts spent and any variance with the previously budgeted amounts.

Furthermore, to ensure that the \$16 million is used for the reinstatement of adult dental Medicaid coverage, we further suggest that proviso language be added to this bill. It should be noted, however, that because this language would be contained in a stand-alone bill rather than the budget bill, if enacted, one could argue that it would have to be treated as law.

We also propose a new SECTION be added to the bill as follows:

"SECTION. . . Of the appropriations for health care payments (HMS401), \$16,511,000 in general funds or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020, shall be expended only for the restoration of adult dental benefits which include preventative and restorative oral health services."

In closing, we greatly appreciate this opportunity to share our MANAO with you today.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Feb. 20, 2019

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Nancy Partika, Disparities Director, Oral Health for All Hawaii

Subject: Strong **Support: SB 467**, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES

Hearing: February 20, 2019 in Room #211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means;

I am Nancy Partika, Disparities Director for *Oral Health For All Hawaii*, which is a project of the Hawaii Children's Action Network, established in 2018 to support & engage communities with oral health disparities by encouraging grassroots leadership and advocacy & sparking changes in oral health disparities via community-driven initiatives.

Needless to say, Hawaii has struggled for decades with oral health disparities and problems accessing care for its most needy. The 2009 abolishment of full adult dental benefits under State Medicaid and the problems that resulted from adults receiving emergency-only care since then has spiraled, while the State continues to pay out millions per year in acute oral health emergency room care statewide that does not provide adequate oral health care or support to our at-risk populations.

According to the recent 2017-18 Hawaii State Dept. of Health study, 56% of all ER visits made statewide were Medicaid and/or Medicare recipients, and the costs in 2016 for these 3,000 total visits were a staggering \$17 million dollars. Fiscally, it seems logical that these millions of dollars that could be potentially saved via fewer ER visits and instead wisely utilize a portion of those expended state dollars to pay upfront for preventative and restorative dental care benefits for adult Medicaid recipients.

Poor oral health is already co- linked to an array of acute and chronic health conditions, including: heart disease, diabetes, stroke, depression, low birth weight and premature birth. Researchers have also identified linkages from chronic dental pain to end-stage renal disease,

liver transplants, opioid-related emergency department visits, and opioid-related crime. These co-conditions are made worse by having poor oral health, and the care of the oral health of persons who are chronically ill or pregnant can be another significant potential area for return on investment. We are now recognizing that not intervening in oral health conditions early and preventively will cost much more later on in unintended direct and indirect societal costs.

Currently there are 17 states offering comprehensive adult oral health benefits (with expanded services offered), 17 states that offer limited (averaging \$500-\$1,000 person/year) adult oral health benefits, with 14 states (Hawaii included) offering emergency-only adult oral health benefits and 3 states that offer no adult oral health benefits. Many options are being implemented by other states now that Hawaii could consider to address the need for greater dental benefits.

By adding a comprehensive or limited dental services benefit, Hawaii's adults on Medicaid are expected to experience fewer oral health-related ER visits, with improvements to their chronic disease risks and overall health status. Broader Medicaid dental benefits for adults would not only support individual health and well-being among Hawaii's most vulnerable adults, but could also improve the employment status and socio-economic strength of our communities.

There has been clear policy-level messaging regarding the desired budget priorities and lower priority given to other pressing issues this fiscal year. The State, however, is already paying in ER costs for Medicaid dental services to the tune of almost \$10 million a year.** If we even commit to investing half of that amount (\$5 million dollars) in basic preventive and restoration adult dental services, we can finally begin to reduce the high costs of inappropriate ER care, along with needless pain and suffering, employment-related disability, co-related health status and self-image, not to mention helping to address opioid use relating to chronic dental pain.

We in the community fully understand and support the need to address multiple issues and crises at the Legislative level; however the issue of inadequate coverage of adults on Medicaid for dental health is now a chronic decade-long problem in need of immediate attention. Improving oral health for adults and their families in Medicaid has widespread public and private support statewide, and, as the oral health needs grow, the voices for change to a more humane and responsive policy towards adults' on Medicaid increases. Waiting for yet another year in hopes of improved fiscal situation only exacerbates the costs and problems we continue to see and experience in adult oral health throughout our state.

Your pro-active attention to the need for funding adult dental benefits for Medicaid recipients is respectfully appreciated—Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this important fiscal policy bill.

**Rough calculation, based on the DOH HHIC ER data study (Dr. Don Hayes, FHSD-DOH, 2018) determined that HHIC reported just over 3,000 emergency room (ER) visits for acute oral health conditions in 2016, totaling over \$17 million in direct costs, compared to 1,800 visits in 2006, with \$4 million in costs. It was also determined that for all dental emergency services that were provided in 2015-16 in Hawaii, 56% were disproportionately Med-QUEST recipients, which represent about 25% of the overall Hawaii population.

\$17 million (2016 total paid) X 56% (Medicaid recipients using ER) = \$9,520,000 potential cost-savings, if all ER use by Medicaid recipients for dental conditions was eliminated.

SB-467

Submitted on: 2/17/2019 6:38:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

www.WeAreOne.cc

SB-467

Submitted on: 2/17/2019 10:05:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Rantz	Testifying for Hawaii State Rural Health Association	Support	No

Comments:



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMAMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 20, 2019

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thirtieth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB 0467 – Relating to Making an Appropriation to Restore Basic Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB 0467**. The bill makes an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to restore adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees. Requires federal matching funds.

The Council emphasizes 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 of, affects all aspects (emotional, psychological, and social) of our lives. Numerous individuals can share their experience of having a tooth or teeth extracted or acquiring serious health problems because necessary dental services were not available due to 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 enrollees

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB 0467**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

LATE

SB-467

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 10:21:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Self Advocates	Testifying for Hawaii Self Advocates Advisory Council	Support	No

Comments:



Testimony in Support of RE: SB 467

Ellie Kelley-Miyashiro, RDH, BS

Past President/Regulations and Practice Chairperson – Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association

Feb 18, 2019

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Respected Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association (HDHA) strongly **SUPPORTS SB 467**. The bill appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid and QUEST enrollees. We congratulate you on your initiative to expand Medicaid dental services for adults to include preventive, diagnostic and restorative treatment services. This provision would directly benefit seniors, as well as adults with developmental and physical disabilities in providing necessary oral health services.

HDHA cannot emphasize enough the importance of dental care services that include preventive, restorative, prosthetic, and emergency services for all residents of Hawaii. We are keenly aware of how oral health, or the lack thereof, can affect all aspects (physical, emotional, psychological, and social) of our lives. It is also common knowledge that oral health has a direct correlation to over-all health. The mouth is connected to and shares a circulatory system with the rest of the body. Ignoring or limiting oral care services places Hawaii residents at risk for increased health problems.

As the largest association representing Hawaii's licensed dental hygienists', HDHA strongly **SUPPORTS SB 467** to address the unnecessary effects of dental disease among Hawaii's people, as well as the phenomenal expense of dental care in emergency room settings.

Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

SB-467

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 10:19:23 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Lloreta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Date of hearing: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 10 am

Bill #: SB 467 Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony submitted by Save Medicaid Hawaii

Aloha Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair and WAM Committee members:

My name is Doris Segal Matsunaga and I am representing Save Medicaid Hawaii, a network of people advocating for NO CUTS in Medicaid and working towards a stronger health care system in Hawaii that provides high quality universal health care for all. We firmly believe Medicaid is good for everyone in Hawaii because when more people are insured, this lowers health care costs for all of us. <https://www.facebook.com/SaveMedicaidHawaii/>

We are writing in strong support of SB 467. This bill proposes an appropriation for the expansion of adult dental benefits under Medicaid to include reinstate basic preventive and restoration benefits.

Oral health is a crucial part of a person's physical, psychological, social and economic health and wellbeing. In fact, pain due to oral disease in children results in thousands of hours of missed school every year; while adults with poor oral health often struggle to manage chronic co-conditions such as diabetes and heart disease. Missing or broken teeth also create social barriers for adults to find and maintain gainful employment in our service-based economy.

As a result of Hawaii's past decade of minimal coverage for dental care, our emergency room have been overutilized for unmet oral health needs to the tune of thousands of visits per year, costing millions of dollars.

There were reported just over 3,000 emergency room (ER) visits for acute oral health conditions in 2016, totaling over \$17 million in direct costs, compared to 1,800 visits in 2006, with \$4 million in costs. For all dental emergency services that were provided in 2015-16 in Hawaii, 56% were disproportionately Med-QUEST recipients, who represent about 25% of the overall Hawaii population.

An estimated 79% of ER dental visits could be diverted to community settings, saving about 48% of the cost of each visit. (Example: treating a dental emergency might cost \$750 in an ER vs. \$390 in the community setting.)

In FY 2017, for the 234,258 adults who had emergency-only dental coverage, only 17,889 (8%) of them received ANY dental services for the year.

If a state opts to cover adult dental care through Medicaid, the Federal government will match up to 50% of the state's investment.

As a part of our commitment to improve oral health in Hawaii, we believe that basic coverage of dental services for adults is a critical factor in ensuring access to appropriate and timely oral health care.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this very important health bill.



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

February 18, 2019

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB 467

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

Wednesday February 20, 2019, 10:05 AM, Conference Room 011

Ho'ola Lahui Hawaii the only Federally Qualified Health Center and Native Hawaiian Health Care System on Kauai is strongly **SUPPORTING** this bill to restore adult dental benefits for those on Medicaid.

Dental care is vital to the overall health of individuals. Nearly 50% of all adults aged 30 or older have some form of gum disease according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and adult cavities is on the rise. Around 90% of all adults have had a cavity and 1 in 4 adults have untreated cavities.

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

Since 2009 when this benefit was removed, we have witnessed increasing numbers of individuals who are in dire need of care including major decay and infection.

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

Respectfully Requested,

David Peters
Chief Executive Officer

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 467
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES

Date of Hearing:

February 20, 2019

Committee:

Committee on Ways and Means

February 16, 2019

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and Committee members:

My name is Andrew Tseu, D.D.S., J.D. and I am submitting testimony as a Hawaii resident. I am writing in strong support of SB 467. This bill proposes an appropriation for the expansion of adult dental benefits under Medicaid to include reinstate basic preventive and restoration benefits.

Hawaii's oral health services has not been given adequate attention and resources necessary to support good oral health care in our state since Medicaid adult dental benefits were drastically cut in 2009.

Oral health is a crucial part of a person's physical, psychological, social and economic health and well-being. In fact, pain due to oral disease in children results in thousands of hours of missed school every year; while adults with poor oral health often struggle to manage chronic co-conditions such as diabetes and heart disease. Missing or broken teeth also create social barriers for adults to find and maintain gainful employment in our service-based economy.

As a result of our past decade of minimal coverage for dental care, our emergency room have been overutilized for unmet oral health needs to the tune of thousands of visits per year, costing millions of dollars.

As a part of our commitment to improve oral health in Hawaii, we believe that basic coverage of dental services for adults is a critical factor in ensuring access to appropriate and timely oral health care.

Please feel free to contact me at (808) 781-3613 to discuss my testimony further.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this very important health bill.

Best regards,



Andrew Tseu, D.D.S., J.D.



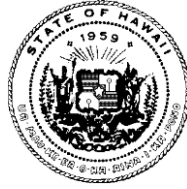
SB-467

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 10:03:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



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

February 18, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 467 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO RESTORE ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS
TO MEDICAID ENROLLEES**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 10:05 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

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

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to DHS to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative adult dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees. Requires DHS to obtain the maximum federal matching funds available for the expenditure.

DHS appreciates and supports the restoration of a basic oral health benefit for adult Medicaid and QUEST Integration recipients. The current limited benefit of emergency-only coverage does not support the goals of whole person care. Additionally the inability of recipients to access preventive oral health care can have a negative impact on a person's health, especially for individuals with chronic diseases, pregnant women and the health of their newborns.

In the 2018 legislature, DHS estimated that to provide the benefit, it would take at least six months before it could be implemented, and that there would be a gradual ramp up of utilization of the benefit. We had estimated about \$4,700,000 in general funds and

\$7,056,720 in federal funds for fiscal year 2020 for restoration of adult dental benefits. As more people use the benefits in future years, our estimates were that \$17,000,000 in general funds and about \$25,500,000 in federal funds for a total of \$42,500,000 would be needed. We are currently researching how other Medicaid programs have restored their adult dental benefits, and the costs of doing so. However, we have not completed our analyses at this time to be able to provide any updated estimates of utilization or costs.

We respectfully request that any appropriation not supplant funding priorities identified in the Executive Budget.

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

SB-467

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 10:19:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donovan Keliiaa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Ways and Means

From: Paula Yoshioka, Vice President, Government Relations and External Affairs, The
Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 19, 2019

Hrg: Senate Committee on Human Services Hearing; Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 10:05
AM in Room 016

Re: Support for S.B. 467, Making an Appropriation to Restore Adult Dental Benefits to
Medicaid Enrollees

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a not-for-profit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, 66 health care centers and labs, and more than 1,600 physicians statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support for S.B. 467, which would make an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to restore adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees and requires federal matching funds. Through our dental clinic, Queen's is able to provide full-service dental care for patients on an outpatient and inpatient basis. These services are provided to patients who may have limited options or no other options for their dental care, complex oral facial pathology, medically fragile health, and/or special needs. For Fiscal Year 2017, 60% of the patients served at the Dental Clinic were Medicaid eligible.

The Dental Clinic is home to Hawai'i'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. 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.



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

February 20, 2019
10:05 a.m.
Conference Room 211

To: The Honorable Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
The Honorable Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: 'Ohana Health Plan
Rachel Wilkinson, Government Affairs Manager

Re: SB 467, Making an Appropriation to Restore Adult Dental Benefits to
Medicaid Enrollees; **In Support**

'Ohana Health Plan ('Ohana) is a member of the WellCare Health Plans, Inc.'s ("WellCare") family of companies and provides healthcare for Hawaii residents statewide. Since 2009, 'Ohana has utilized WellCare's national experience to develop a Hawaii -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 467, which makes an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to restore adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees, and requires matching funds.

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.

Starting January 1, 2019, 'Ohana Health Plan is offering—at no cost to our members—basic dental coverage, providing adults who have QUEST Integration coverage with an annual exam, fluoride treatment, a cleaning every six months, one set of bitewing x-rays per year, and either a non-emergent tooth extraction or filling. By absorbing these costs, 'Ohana Health Plan is investing in the health and overall well-being of our members. We believe maintaining a healthy community means doing the right thing by providing quality dental care to those who need it the most.

According to the Hawaii Department of Health's 2012 *Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings* report, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits in Hawaii for preventable dental problems, resulting in \$8.5 million in hospital charges. Studies have shown links between gum disease and higher risks of heart attack, stroke, diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis. Oral health diseases have also been shown to cause low-birth rates and pre-term births for pregnant women.

The state's 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 467. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



February 20, 2019
10:05am
Conference Room 211

To: The Honorable Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

From: Paula Arcena, Executive Vice President, External Affairs

Re: SB467 Relating to Making an Appropriation to Restore Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees

AlohaCare is pleased to submit this testimony in **support** of SB467 which makes an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to restore adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees; and require federal matching funds.

It's been 10 years since adults in Hawaii's Medicaid program have had dental coverage. Children in Hawaii's Medicaid program currently have comprehensive dental coverage. Senior citizens who are Medicaid eligible have multiple options for dental coverage from Medicare Advantage plans.

With dental coverage, 180,000 adults in the Hawaii Medicaid program would get the benefit of early detection and treatment for oral and overall health. Meanwhile, the state continues to spend significantly on emergency dental care. In 2012 alone, Hawaii Medicaid paid \$4.8 million for 1,691 adults for emergency room visits for preventable oral health problems, according to the Department of Health, Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings report.

Opportunities to improve the health of the entire body with good oral care are clinically well established. Clinical studies show that without proper dental care pregnant mothers are at higher risk for premature births and underweight babies. Bacteria in the mouth can get into the bloodstream and cause a heart infection called endocarditis. Some mental health medications cause dry mouth, putting people at risk for tooth and gum disease. Diabetes can make people more susceptible to serious gum disease, such as gingivitis or worse, periodontitis.

To encourage AlohaCare members to seek dental care, AlohaCare is voluntarily providing its members with basic dental coverage. Starting January 1, 2019, AlohaCare is covering basic dental services to adult members who rely on Medicaid as their primary health insurance. By absorbing the cost of an annual dental exam, biannual cleanings and fluoride treatment, two bitewing x-rays and one filling or non-emergency extraction, we hope to help adults with Medicaid get into a dentist chair before they have a dental crisis.

AlohaCare is a local, non-profit health plan founded in 1994 by Hawaii's Community Health Centers. We serve over 70,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members. We are the third largest health plan in Hawaii. We partner with nearly 3,500 physicians, specialists and providers in the care of our members. We have over 260 employees who work on Oahu, the Big Island, Maui and Kauai.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-467

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 6:38:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pua Auyong-White	Testifying for Kokua Kalihi Vally Community Health Center	Support	No

Comments:

Highly encourage committee to support this critical bill for adult dental health care!

mahalo!

LATE



Hawaii Dental Association

To: The Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Time/Date: February 20, 2019; 10:05 AM
Location: Capitol Conference Room 211
Re: SB 467, Making an Appropriation to Restore Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Dental Association (HDA), a professional association comprised of approximately 950-member dentists, supports SB 467. HDA is a statewide membership organization representing dentists practicing in Hawaii and licensed by the State of Hawaii's Board of Dentistry. HDA members are committed to protecting the oral health and well-being of the people of Hawaii, from keiki to kupuna and everyone in between.

SB 467 appropriates funds for adult dental Medicaid benefits. It acknowledges that oral health in the state is a pervasive and expensive public health crisis that needs to be addressed, especially in low-income and underserved populations. This bill is an important step toward promoting oral health in our community and we strongly support it.

Please advance this measure. Mahalo.



LATE

HIPHI Board

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JoAnn Tsark, MPH
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Medicine, Native Hawaiian
Research Office

En Young, MBA
Sansei, Lanai

Date: February 19, 2019

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Ways and Means Committee

Re: Strong Support for SB467 Making an Appropriation to Restore
Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees

Hrg: February 20, 2019 at 10:05am at Conference Room 211

The Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Strong Support of SB 467** which restores adult dental benefits for Medicaid enrollees.

SB467 appropriates funds to the DHS to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative adult dental benefits to Medicaid and QUEST integration enrollees. In a survey conducted by Ward Research for HIPHIⁱⁱ, 9 in 10 registered Hawaii voters (89%) strongly agreed that preventative dental benefits should be included in adult Medicaid coverage.

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 adult dental benefits would help to address this crisis. In addition, a 2015 Department of Health report entitled *Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings* revealed a shortfall in the area of dental benefits, including:

- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults.
- 51% of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, compared to only 32% of high-income adults.
- 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.

Medicaid does not provide any preventive oral healthcare for adults, only emergency dental (extraction or pain management). 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. In addition, because of the lack of coverage, many low-income adults only seek dental care for acute conditions that have been allowed to reach a crisis stage.

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.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish'.

Trish La Chica, MPA
Policy and Advocacy Director

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

ⁱⁱ Findings from a Ward Research Study commissioned by the Hawaii Public Health Institute that summarizes findings from a phone survey among n=812 registered Hawaii voters (maximum sampling error of +/-3.3%) conducted between November 5 to 8, 2018. A copy of the results are available upon request.

LATE

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, 02-20-2019 at 10:05am
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211
Re: Judith Ann Armstrong is in support of SB467

Dear Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair and WAM Committee members,

I am writing in **strong support** of SB467 relating to Dental Care for Adult Medicaid enrollees. This bill proposes an appropriation for the expansion of adult dental benefits under Medicaid to include/reinstate basic preventive and restoration benefits.

Oral health is a crucial part of a person's physical, psychological, social and economic health and wellbeing. In fact, pain due to oral disease in children results in thousands of hours of missed school every year; while adults with poor oral health often struggle to manage chronic co-conditions such as diabetes and heart disease. Missing or broken teeth also create social barriers for adults to find and maintain gainful employment in our service-based economy.

As a result of Hawaii's past decade of minimal coverage for dental care, our emergency room have been overutilized for unmet oral health needs to the tune of thousands of visits per year, costing millions of dollars.

There were reported just over 3,000 emergency room (ER) visits for acute oral health conditions in 2016, totaling over \$17 million in direct costs, compared to 1,800 visits in 2006, with \$4 million in costs. For all dental emergency services that were provided in 2015-16 in Hawaii, 56% were disproportionately Med-QUEST recipients, who represent about 25% of the overall Hawaii population.

An estimated 79% of ER dental visits could be diverted to community settings, saving about 48% of the cost of each visit. (Example: treating a dental emergency might cost \$750 in an ER vs. \$390 in the community setting.)

In FY 2017, for the 234,258 adults who had emergency-only dental coverage, only 17,889 (8%) of them received ANY dental services for the year.

If a state opts to cover adult dental care through Medicaid, the Federal government will match up to 50% of the state's investment.

As a part of our commitment to improve oral health in Hawaii, we believe that basic coverage of dental services for adults is a critical factor in ensuring access to appropriate and timely oral health care.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,
Judith Ann Armstrong
1717 Ala Wai Blvd
Apt 3006
Honolulu, HI 96815



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 586-8162 (TTY)

February 20, 2019

LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senate Bill 467 – Making an Appropriation to Restore Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 467 – Making an Appropriation to Restore Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees. The purpose of this bill is to make an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees. According to the Mayo Clinic, studies have shown that the mouth is teeming with bacteria and without proper oral hygiene, such as brushing and flossing, the bacteria may lead to oral infections, tooth decay, and gum disease.

Providing access to dental care for adult Medicaid enrollees would do a great deal to help in the prevention of severe gum disease and other health conditions that may be linked to poor oral health such as endocarditis, cardiovascular disease or premature birth and birth weight. Certain other health conditions may also affect oral health including diabetes, HIV/AIDS, osteoporosis causing weakened bones in the jaw, or Alzheimer's disease. Access to basic adult dental benefits for Medicaid enrollees would assist in improved general health care. A major portion of Medicaid enrollees are individuals with disabilities.

We defer to the Department of Human Services regarding the appropriation necessary to restore basic adult dental health benefits to this population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

LATE

SB-467

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 9:26:25 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debbie Drummondo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Oral health is significant in the overall health of an individual. SB 467 will help reduce or even eliminate Emergency visits relating to dental pain. It will help thousands of underserved adult Medicaid recipients who have no access to preventive and restorative dental care. I support SB 467-Making an appropriation to restore Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees.

D.Drummondo

Student, Master of Social Work

Myron B.Thompson School of Social Work-UH-Manoa

LATE

SB-467

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 9:29:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments: