

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES,
& HOMELESSNESS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1754

February 10, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Room 329 and Videoconference

RELATING TO ADULT DENTAL MEDICAID BENEFITS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1754 appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Human Services to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees.

B&F notes that the FY 23 Executive Supplemental Budget already includes \$3,466,328 in general funds and \$6,728,754 in federal funds in HMS 401's budget in FY 23 to restore certain adult dental benefits.

B&F also notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 10, 2022

The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
The Thirty-First Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Yamane and Committee members:

SUBJECT: HB1754 Relating to Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB1754** which appropriates funds to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees.

The Council cannot emphasize the importance of dental care services that include preventive, restorative, prosthetic, and emergency services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. 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 severe health problems because necessary dental services were not available because of the termination of the Medicaid adult dental benefit coverage in 2008. Compounding these issues is the limited number of dentists on the Neighbor Islands who are available and willing to serve Medicaid enrollees.

Not only does lack of preventative oral care affect one's overall health. It profoundly impacts these individuals' abilities to obtain gainful employment. It is hard to have self-confidence during an interview when you are missing teeth or have poor dental care. Many individuals with intellectual and or developmental disabilities are already at a disadvantage within our current job market; our population does not need poor dental care to add to this issue.

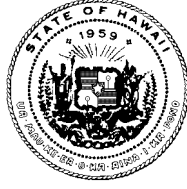
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB1754.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 8, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1754 – RELATING TO ADULT DENTAL MEDICAID BENEFITS.**

Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this measure to fund the restoration of adult dental benefits for the Medicaid program. However, we respectfully request that the Legislature consider adding the appropriation to the executive budget. The Governor's budget priorities include funding for the restoration of a basic adult dental benefit of preventive, diagnostic, and some restorative dental services.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees.

DHS appreciates and supports the restoration of a basic oral health benefits for adult Medicaid and QUEST Integration beneficiaries. The currently limited benefit of emergency-only coverage does not support the goals of whole-person care. Lack of access to 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. For these reasons, the executive budget includes \$10,195,082 (\$3,466,328 A funds/\$6,728,754 N funds) to restore dental services for adult Medicaid beneficiaries. This amount is the equivalent of Option 1:

Limited dental benefit focused only on prevention and oral disease control (e.g., dental procedures such as diagnostics (x-rays), cleanings, and fillings).

In 2020, DHS Med-QUEST Division (MQD) with the Health Policy Institute of the American Dental Association (HPI ADA) released a study that updated cost estimates for the restoration of the adult dental benefit. MQD identified three coverage options, ranging from a basic dental coverage to a comprehensive option, which is also referenced in this bill.

Option 1. Limited dental benefit focused only on prevention and oral disease control (dental procedures such as diagnostics (x-rays), cleanings, and fillings).

Option 2. Basic dental benefit focused on oral disease control and some restoration of chewing functions (diagnostics, cleanings, fillings, some root canals, some crowns, and some dentures).

Option 3. Comprehensive coverage that includes most dental procedures with some limits.

Since the study was released in 2020, adult beneficiaries have increased substantially.

Accordingly, the costs of each option were also updated:

	Option 1 (Gov recommended)	Option 2	Option 3
Total Cost	10,195,082	25,952,297	47,384,075
Federal Funds	6,728,754	17,128,516	31,273,490
State Funds	3,466,328	8,823,781	16,110,586

Lastly, if an appropriation is forthcoming, we respectfully request that the Legislature consider adding the appropriation to the executive budget. Including an appropriation via this measure would only be a one-time appropriation which would not support the necessary continuity of an adult dental program.

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



Date: February 10, 2022

To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrain K. Tam, Vice-Chair
Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

From: Peggy Mierzwa, AlohaCare

RE: **HB1754** Relating to Medicaid Benefits-Strong Support

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB1754**. This measure would appropriate funding to Department of Human Services to restore adult dental benefits to Medicaid members.

Founded in 1994, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving nearly 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. It is the only state health plan exclusively serving Medicaid patients. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care, including access to housing and food security, to build a stronger, healthier Hawaii.

For over a decade, Hawaii's Medicaid program has covered only emergency dental services for adult beneficiaries. Preventative and restorative dental services, as cleanings and x-rays, are not covered for adults. As a result, individuals resort to the emergency room in order to get treatment for complicated infections and excruciating pain. Many times the individual has little options beyond tooth extractions in order to address problem areas. Many of these catastrophic events could have been avoided had preventative care been available.

Oral care has a significant impact on a person's overall health. Individuals with chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease lead to increased disability and death. A lack of preventive services commonly leads to gum disease, which is associated with an increased risk of heart disease. Poor dental health increases the risk of a bacterial infection in the blood stream, which can affect the heart valves; tooth loss patterns are connected to coronary artery disease; strong connection between diabetes and cardiovascular disease and evidence that people with diabetes benefit from periodontal treatment.¹ Pregnant women are at much greater risks to periodontal disease. Periodontitis has been associated with poor pregnancy outcomes, including preterm birth and low birth weight.² Women with poor dental health are more than 3 times more likely to have a child with cavities.³

¹ <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/expert-answers/heart-disease-prevention/faq-20057986>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/publications/features/pregnancy-and-oral-health.html>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/publications/features/pregnancy-and-oral-health.html>



ALOHACARE

Providing dental coverage to adults with Medicaid, prevents avoidable health conditions and uplifts the overall health of communities, where people are able to care for their families, stay out of emergency rooms, and live fulfilling lives. This benefit will positively impact the well-being our communities.

We are grateful for your consideration of this important measure.

1357 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1250, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Call: 973-0712 • Toll-free: 1-877-973-0712 • Fax: 808-973-0726 • www.AlohaCare.org



February 7, 2022

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Re: HB 1754 – Relating to Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 1754, which appropriates funds to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to enrollees; provided that the department of human services obtains maximum federal matching funds available and pursues all funding sources, including private grants, prior to expending any general fund appropriations.

HMSA supports access to dental coverage and oral health care for our members. We believe that preventive and restorative dentistry services are important as they can decrease potential health care complications for individuals living with chronic diseases, such as heart disease and diabetes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1754.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Sasaki
Assistant Vice President
Government & External Relations



February 8th, 2022
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB1854, Relating to Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits

Aloha **Committee Chair and members**,

The Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists supports HB1754/SB1294, which seeks to restore adult Medicaid dental benefits for the following reasons:

Because diagnostic, preventive and restorative dental services for adults on Medicaid were eliminated in 2009, and since 2009 there has been an increase of emergency room utilization and an increase in costs related to preventable conditions.

Because we are 1 of only 13 states that provide only emergency dental care.

Because the ADA reported in 1026 that ER visits nationwide continued to increase in 2012, costing the US health care system \$1.6 billion per year at an average cost of \$749 per visit.

Because recent data show that between 2016 and 2020 there were a total of 29,536 ER visits with a dental related diagnosis among adults aged 21 years and older, and Medicaid claims constituted 45% of the cumulative total charges for the ER visits with a principal dental-related diagnosis.

Because Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and neighbor islands are at greater risk for poorer oral health and limited access to oral health care.

Because an average of 10% of patients who visited the ER for principal dental-related conditions revisited the ER at least twice in the same year.

Because oral health is essential to overall health.

Because more than 33% (1 in 3) low-income adults indicate that the condition of their mouth and teeth affects their ability to interview for a job.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alec Marentic,
President-Elect, Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists (HASP)
Email: hasp808@gmail.com

HB-1754

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:22:57 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	No

Comments:

We are in strong support.

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Director

Before:
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

February 10, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference

Re: HB 1754, Relating to Medicaid Benefits

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1754, which appropriates state general funds to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS HB 1754.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i is Hawai'i's largest integrated health system that provides care and coverage for approximately 265,000 members. Each day, more than 4,400 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians and providers come to work at Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i to care for our members at our 20 medical facilities, including Moanalua Medical Center, providing high-quality care for our members and delivering on our commitment to improve the health of the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i supports policies that ensure all Hawaii residents have access to affordable, high-quality health care. Further, Kaiser Permanente supports "whole-person care," including the provision of access to services and resources that address beneficiaries' physical health, mental health and social needs. We know that adults with poor oral health, often because they lack dental coverage, often struggle to manage other chronic conditions. Furthermore, poor oral health and gum disease (periodontitis) has been associated with an increased risk of developing heart disease and bacterial infection in the blood stream.

To that end, we endorse the provision of coverage through Medicaid for a full range of needs, including dental services. Oral health is a crucial part of overall physical, psychological, social, and economic wellbeing.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen a dramatic increase in Medicaid members; however, comprehensive benefits for Medicaid enrollees was eliminated in 2009 and reduced coverage to emergency only (extraction and pain management).

Given that Medicaid beneficiaries comprise some of the most vulnerable, complex patients, the Medicaid program should play a role in addressing these needs. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i supports HB 1754 because it is an investment to restore diagnostic, preventive and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees would be relatively small in comparison to the downstream cost savings to the entire healthcare system.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



To: Chair Ryan Yamane
Vice Chair Adrian Tam
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

From: David W. Heywood, Health Plan CEO
UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Hawaii

Re: HB 1754, Relating to Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits; **In Support**
February 10, 2022; Conference Room 329

UnitedHealthcare (UHC) serves approximately 59,000 QUEST Integration (Medicaid) and 37,500 Medicare Advantage members in Hawaii. We also provide Medicare Part D, Medicare Supplemental, and other health programs/services in the islands. Our team is comprised of over 400 employees across the islands with offices in Honolulu, Kahului, and Hilo.

UHC **supports** HB 1754, which appropriates funds to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees, provided the Department of Human Services obtains maximum federal matching funds available and pursues all funding sources, including private grants, prior to expending any general fund appropriations.

Poor oral health is one of the more important issues facing our state, particularly with the adult Medicaid population. There is a clear relationship between preventative dental care and the deterrence of serious medical conditions, including heart disease and diabetes. This investment in adult dental benefits not only improves the overall wellness for an underserved population of Hawaii's most vulnerable residents, but it will also lead to cost savings to the entire healthcare system.

We strongly urge the passage of HB 1754. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness
Thursday, February 10, 2022; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1754, RELATING TO MEDICAID BENEFITS.

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, 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 **SUPPORTS** the reinstatement of dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees at federally qualified health centers (FQHCs).

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate an unspecified amounts of general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023, respectively, to restore diagnostic, preventative, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees. The bill further requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to obtain the maximum federal matching funds available for this expenditure, and to pursue all funding sources known to this State, including private grants, prior to expending any general funds appropriated.

Since 2008, the HPCA has consistently urged the reinstatement of this essential benefit. At that time, the Legislature faced enormous fiscal challenges that forced your predecessors to make many difficult decisions. The elimination of adult dental Medicaid benefits was just one of many painful cuts that needed to be made for the good of all.

As the economy rebounded, most of the programs cut were reorganized and many were reinstated to ensure that the needs of our citizens are met. Yet, adult dental Medicaid was never returned..

Testimony on House Bill No. 1754
Thursday, February 10, 2022; 9:00 a.m.
Page 2

With each year that essential services were denied to our most vulnerable populations, the gap between the "haves" and "have nots" grew and their health outcomes declined. After 14 years of neglect, many in our community are in distress.

This Legislature and Administration have the opportunity to right a wrong that apathy has caused. No longer should the lack of funds be the justification to withhold essential health care to those most in need. Too many people have suffered. Too many people are suffering.

Should the Legislature ensure that federal funding be maximized? Of course, and with the expanded FMAP available under the numerous federal relief Acts, the Department of Human Services should have ample flexibility to likewise maximize the package of benefits offered to recipients.

The question is whether there is sufficient political will to help those most in need. That is something that the HPCA cannot answer, but we will watch and see whether it will be necessary for us to be back at this table again next year as we have been for the past fourteen.

The HPCA urges this body to do the right thing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



February 9, 2022

HB 1754

Health, Human Services, & Homelessness (HHH)
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I am submitting this letter in support of **HB 1754** on behalf of Easterseals Hawaii and the families we serve. Easterseals Hawaii provides Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) Programs to 250 adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in nine locations statewide. Our Mission is to ensure that all people with disabilities or special needs and their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in their communities. Most adults that participate in the Home and Community Based Services program receive their health services through the Med-Quest program and would benefit from the restoration of dental services.

Oral health is a crucial part of a person's physical, psychological, social and economic health and wellbeing. Missing or broken teeth create social and economic barriers for adults to make friends and to find and maintain gainful employment in our service-based economy.

- Studies have shown that poor oral health contributes to acute and chronic health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and depression.
- Use of emergency room visits is often triggered by dental issues. Medicaid claims between 2016 and 2020 indicate that 67 % of the 29,536 ER visits by adults 21 years of age and older were related to dental problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "apettiford".

Andrea Pettiford
Chief Executive Officer
Easterseals Hawaii

Easterseals Hawaii is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Tax ID #99-0075235.

EastersealsHawaii.org • 710 Green St. • Honolulu, HI 96813 • 808.536.1015



20 Years of Empowering People to Live, Work,
Learn and Enjoy Life on Hawai'i Island

To: Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Hearing Date/Time: 2/10/2022
Re: **HB 1754** ,Relating to Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits Testimony in support

Dear Chair Rep. Yamane, Vice Chair Rep. Tam and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to **testify in support** on HB 1754 relating to adult dental Medicaid benefits.

Restoring adult dental Medicaid benefits is important because it restores diagnostic, preventative, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees including many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. People with developmental disabilities have historically experienced exclusion and isolation. Appropriate preventative and restorative dental care are an important component to keeping people healthy and fully participating in the life of the community. In Hawai'i, more than 1 in 3 low income adults indicate that the condition of their mouth and teeth affects their ability to interview for a job. Oral health is essential to overall health. Emergency department utilization is not an appropriate, effective, or responsible solution for treating preventable oral health conditions.

Please support reinstating adult dental Medicaid benefits. Oral health is health and reinstating these benefits is a cost-effective, person-centered approach to making our communities healthier.

Thank you,
Jim Kilgore, Executive Director
Full Life

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Kylene Shimamoto and I am in support of HB 1754. I have Medicaid. I have waited for a long time for help with my teeth and dentist.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Herman Ki'ili and I am in support of HB 1754. I receive only one time a year for my dentist visit. I want to have good teeth because one day I want to get married. I have a fiancé now and I need more help from my dentist so I can eat my food good. Please pass HB 1754. Medicaid is very important so I can get teeth services to help me live in the community. Thank you.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Audrey Ayer and I am in support of HB 1754. People like me need more dentist Medicaid help so me and my friends can live in our homes. Please pass HB 1754. Thank you.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Bathey Fong and I am in support of HB 1754. I really need a good dentist and want to make sure my gums don't hurt and my teeth don't hurt and I can eat without pain. I have Medicaid and I am a person with a disability and in a wheelchair because I cannot walk good. Please pass HB 1754. Thank you.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Nicole Kelly and I am in support of HB 1754. I want to be able to choose a dentist to help me have good teeth and clean teeth. Please pass HB 1754. Thank you.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Ho'opi'o Balaz and I am in support of HB 1754. I need a good dentist, like my aunty who is a good doctor. Please pass HB 1754. Thank you.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Kaili Swan and I am in support of HB 1754. I definitely want to have better dental care. I sometimes don't like to go to my dentist because I scared of the drill. I need help choosing a good dentist that can help me feel better when I go. Thank you.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is David Beatovich and I support of HB 1754. I want to visit the dentist more and more.
Thank you.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Timothy Renken and I am in support of HB 1754. I have not gone to the dentist because I need more help with my teeth to be fixed. I lost almost all of my front teeth and cannot eat many foods because it hurts too much. I cannot use a toothbrush and toothpaste because it hurts to use it. I only use a mouthwash to rinse my teeth because it is hurts too much. I don't have good Medicaid dentist insurance, so I only go dentist one time a year. I have kidney stones because I can only eat some kinds of food. I am getting worse. Please please please pass HB 1754. Thank you.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Vaipapa Soliai and I am in support of HB 1754. I don't have any teeth and need more dentist appointments to help me get teeth. I am a person with disabilities that need support with my electric wheelchair. Please pass HB 1754. Thank you.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Amber Arakawa and I would like to tell you that I support HB 1754. I need more dentist Medicaid and do not want to lose my insurance.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Cheryl Derby and I support HB 1754. I am a person with a disability and want to have more appointments at my dentist.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Sol Ray Duncan and I want to see HB 1754 become law. I know I need to have more checkups at my dentist. I want to have clean teeth and strong teeth, and teeth that is not sore.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Celeste Kagimoto and I want HB 1754 to pass because I have a disability and I go to Lanakila Day program and need more dental help.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Paul Landingin and I want you to pass HB 1754. I think I need more checkups at the dentist. Sometimes my teeth are sore but I cannot go dentist because I am told I don't have any more insurance coverage. I don't know why. I tell my caregiver I have Medicaid, but I don't understand how come I cannot fix my teeth. Can you help me and my caregiver have more dentist fixing appointment?

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Michael Lee and have a disability and I want to have more checkups on my teeth please. I want to have teeth that work good. I support HB 1754.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Ada McFeely and I need your help to pass HB 1754. I support HB 1754. Someone always call me a duck because my teeth and mouth cannot be fix. I want to change my teeth and mouth so no more duck calling in my life.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Ryan Nishikawa and I am person who has Down's Syndrome and support HB 1754. I am at Lanakila day program and I like my dentist, but only one time I can go in one year.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Johnelle Santos and I have a disability and I support HB 1754. I want to have pretty teeth too.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Zosimo Arista, I support HB 1754. I work with people who have Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities and hope that the Dental Medicaid shortages can be changed so as to see true health benefits to people with disabilities and statewide financial benefit savings, lowering emergency room visits for dental problems.

February 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Representative. Ryan I. Yamane, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Dear Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

My name is Michelle Muralt, I support HB 1754. I have Down's syndrome and help other friends who have disabilities to have a better life. I want to see us have more dentist visit to fix our teeth and have someplace where a dentist can fix our teeth and help us to have braces or to have retainers if we need them, or clean our teeth and make it straight again.

HDS

Hawaii Dental Service

**Testimony to Support HB1754, Relating to Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits
from Dr. Diane S.L. Paloma, President & CEO of Hawaii Dental Service**

House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

February 8, 2022

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Committee Members,

Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) strongly supports **HB1754** to restore dental benefits for adult Medicaid beneficiaries.

Adult Medicaid beneficiaries in Hawaii have been deprived of access to basic oral health care for nearly 13 years since 2009. They have not been able to have diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental services simply because of their socioeconomic status and have been limited to reduced coverage for emergencies *ONLY for extraction and pain management* - those most impacted are Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Neighbor Island residents.

The pandemic has underscored two important lessons regarding healthcare in our community. First, we must relentlessly seek to eliminate more health and social disparities in our state and second, we must be more prudent about our use of limited healthcare resources to support the state's economic recovery and utilize matching federal funding whenever feasible.

With the pandemic creating more imbalances in our community which demand our collective attention and intervention, hospital emergency rooms (ER) are focused on urgent care, critical COVID patients, and management of more severe diseases and can't afford to be inundated with those seeking dental care that should more appropriately be received OUTSIDE of the ER in dentist offices.

Statistics show the brunt of oral healthcare costs have unfairly shifted to acute care facilities. Recent data shows that between 2016 and 2020 there was 29,536 ER visits with a dental related diagnosis among adults aged 21 years and older. In that same period, Medicaid claims constituted 45% of the cumulative total ER visit charges with a principal dental-related diagnosis, about \$12.3 million - these costly ER visits can be preempted through routine dentist visits and proper preventive and restorative care. It is unfortunate that hospitals are bearing the financial burden of oral healthcare and having to divide their attention with patients who need immediate attention for trauma and other critical needs.

Hawaii was the first to introduce pre-paid healthcare 50 years ago as a model state making healthcare more affordable and accessible for island residents. Oral Health is essential to overall health. Extending dental coverage to patients with chronic health conditions like diabetes and heart disease can lead to cost savings in related areas of health care spending, ranging from \$1.9 million to \$5.3 million.

This issue is too important to put off another year, as we're one of 13 states that only provide emergency care - Hawaii must offer dental Medicaid benefits for adults. Mahalo for allowing HDS to share our concerns and testimony in support of HB1754.

Mahalo for your support.



Dr. Diane S.L. Paloma
President and CEO

Hawaii Dental Service
900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1900
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3705

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ACOG
The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

*American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Hawai'i, Guam & American Samoa Section*

TO: House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 9am.

FROM: ACOG Hawai'i Section
Reni Soon, MD, MPH, FACOG, Chair

**Re: HB1754 – Relating to Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits
Position: SUPPORT**

The Hawai'i Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG HI) strongly supports HB1754 which would restore adult dental Medicaid benefits. Including dental benefits for Medicaid recipients creates an opportunity to improve the health of Hawai'i's most at-risk patient populations: pregnant women receiving Medicaid.

Poor dentition is a risk factor contributing to pregnancy complications such as preterm birth, preeclampsia (high blood pressure in pregnancy), and low birth weight of the newborn. These conditions are costly with consequences often including prolonged hospitalizations for moms and newborns. Facilitating access to dental care through Medicaid coverage not only provides a direct benefit in reducing these types of pregnancy complications but additionally would provide an entry point into routine preventative dental care.

Pregnancy is a crucial time to establish preventative health care that optimally includes routine dental cleanings and treatment. Less than half of all pregnant women in the US report having dental cleanings during pregnancy, and this percentage is even lower among the most socially disadvantaged pregnant women (American Public Health Association, 2020). As poor dentition and dental disease can worsen in pregnancy, it is critical to provide access and coverage for patients to obtain care.

As of January 2021, 32 US States covered preventative services such as cleanings for adult Medicaid enrollees. We urge you to add Hawai'i to this list and ask you consider the health of pregnant patients in particular by adding dental benefits to adult Medicaid in Hawai'i.

Oral health is health. Reinstating these benefits is a cost-effective, person-centered approach to making our communities in Hawai'i healthier. Please support adult dental Medicaid benefits as a direct way to improve the health of pregnant patients and newborns.

We urge you to pass HB1754.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1754

TO: Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam, & Members – House Committee on Health,
Human Services, and Homelessness

FROM: Trisha Kajimura
Deputy Director - Community

DATE: February 10, 2022 at 9:00 AM

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** HB 1754, which appropriates funds to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees for FY 2022-2023, requiring DHS to obtain the maximum federal matching funds available and pursue all funding sources, including private grants, prior to expanding any general fund appropriations.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many of our program participants are adult Medicaid enrollees, some of whom are living with HIV. As the new chapter of the Life Foundation, HHRC has provided case management and other services to individuals living with HIV since the Life Foundation first opened in 1983.

The elimination of diagnostic, preventive and restorative dental services for adults on Medicaid in 2009 caused a major gap in health care for our clients that we have been fighting an uphill battle to help them with ever since. Dental care is a major part of health care that everyone needs access to. The consequences of inadequate dental care for the medically vulnerable can be very harmful. Our Medicaid enrolled clients frequently request financial assistance for dental care and it has been impossible for us to pay for all of the services they need. Inadequate dental care leads to preventable pain, suffering, stigma and illness. Our Medicaid enrolled clients are faced with extraction as the only option to treat a toothache. Then they have no treatment options for their missing tooth, which in addition to the health problem, causes social and employment discrimination. This gap in health care has been devastating and it needs to be addressed.

Please prioritize this restoration of essential health services in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



February 7, 2021

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

House Bill 1754 – Relating to Medicaid Benefits

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 1754. HAHP is a statewide partnership that unifies Hawaii’s health plans to improve the health of Hawaii’s communities together. A majority of Hawaii residents receive their health coverage through a plan associated with one of our organizations.

HAHP believes that preventive and restorative dental care improves health care outcomes, especially for those living with chronic disease such as diabetes and heart disease. HAHP supports the legislature’s intent to restore funding for adult dental care benefits for the Medicaid population.

Thank you for allowing us to testify expressing our **support** for HB 1754.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee

cc: HAHP Board Members

Date: February 7, 2022

To: Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: **Support for HB1754, Relating to Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits**

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector partnership designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners are working to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

ECAS supports passage of HB1754. This bill appropriates funds to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees for FY 2022-2023.

We need to restore Adult Dental Benefits because:

- Diagnostic, preventive and restorative dental services for adults on Medicaid were eliminated in 2009.
- We are currently one of only 13 states that provide emergency care only.
- Since 2009, we've seen increased Emergency Room utilization and increased costs related to otherwise preventable conditions.
- Higher rates of ER visits with a dental-related diagnosis were found for Hawaii County, Kauai County, and in 21-44 year old patients
- Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations, and those on Neighbor Islands are at greater risk for poor oral health and limited access to oral health care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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The State Legislature
The House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Thursday, February 10, 2022
9:00 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair

RE: Support for H.B. 1754 Relating to Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits

Aloha Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over, with over 140,000 members in Hawai'i.

AARP strongly supports H.B. 1754 which appropriates funds to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees.

- According to an issue paper on improving dental coverage for older adults, (Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, July 2021), nearly one half of the Medicare population (47%) or 24 million beneficiaries 65 years and older, do not have dental coverage.
- Almost half of all Medicare beneficiaries did not have a dental visit within the past year (47%), with higher rates among those who have low incomes (73%), or who are in fair or poor health (63%), as of 2018.
- Average out-of-pocket spending on dental services among Medicare beneficiaries who had any dental service was \$874 in 2018. One in five Medicare beneficiaries (20%) who used dental services spent more than \$1,000 out-of-pocket on dental care.

Cost concerns and lack of dental coverage contribute to many older adults foregoing routine and other dental procedures. Inadequate dental care can exacerbate chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and heart conditions, and lead to preventable complications that sometimes result in costly emergency room visits. Adults who are disabled, homebound, or institutionalized have an even greater risk of dental diseases. Many of them would be Medicaid recipients. Broadening the dental benefit to the adult Medicaid enrollee will greatly improve their overall health and reduce the risk of costly medical care and emergency room visits.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to **support H.B. 1754**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keali'i S. Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Keali'i S. López
State Director



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

February 8, 2021

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of HB 1754
Restoration of Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits

Thursday 02-10-2022, 9:00 AM
CR 329 & Videoconference.

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. Treating patient in the emergency room for dental care is financially prudent nor does it address the dental health of the patient as they will still need a dentist upon discharge to manage their long term treatment.

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 one of the most important bills currently in the legislature to our patients. We strongly encourage the committee to pass this bill and restore full benefits to those most in need.

Respectfully,

David Peters
Chief Executive Officer



Hawaii Dental Association

To: House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Time/Date: 9:00 a.m. February 10, 2022
Location: Via Videoconference
Re: HB 1754, Relating to Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam, and members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Dental Association (HDA) is in **support of HB 1754**, relating to adult dental Medicaid benefits. This bill appropriates funds to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees, provided the Department of Human Services obtains maximum federal matching funds available and pursues all funding sources, including private grants, prior to expending any general fund appropriations.

Oral health is essential for overall health and wellness. Oral health is linked with systemic health conditions and diseases as well as employment opportunities, economic stability, and social connectedness. One cannot be healthy without a healthy mouth. Yet thousands of low income adults in Hawai'i cannot afford the oral health care they need to stay healthy, work, socialize, and live pain free. Part of this disparity is driven by gaps in dental coverage in federal and state policy, particularly dental coverage for adults enrolled in Medicaid. For adults who rely on Medicaid, being able to afford oral health care could be the key to recovering their health or getting a new job. Notably, the people most likely to get sick and lose jobs during the pandemic are also the people who face the biggest barriers to oral health and are among those who would most benefit from improved oral health coverage in Medicaid.¹ For these reasons, we strongly support this measure.

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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1754.

¹ Vujcic M, Fosse C, Reusch C, Burroughs M. Making the case for adults in all state Medicaid programs. Health Policy Institute White Paper. American Dental Association in partnership with Community Catalyst and Families USA. July 2021



February 9, 2022

To: Chair Ryan Yamane
Vice Chair Adrian Tam
House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

Re: HB 1754

Hrg: February 10, 2022 at 9:00 AM

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy. Additionally, HPHA aims to call attention to issues around social justice and equity in areas that extend beyond the traditional context of health (e.g., education, digital equity, cultural sensitivity), which can have profound impacts on health equity and well-being. Therefore, as stewards of public health, HPHA is also advocating for equity in all policies.

Thank you for the opportunity to **testify in support** of HB 1754 which appropriates funds to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees for FY 2022-2023, requiring DHS to obtain the maximum federal matching funds available and pursue all funding sources, including private grants, prior to expanding any general fund appropriations.

Adult Medicaid enrollees have not been able to receive basic dental care since 2009, causing avoidable illness, increased emergency room utilization and exacerbating health disparities in Hawai'i. In our state, more than one in three low-income adults indicate that the condition of their mouth and teeth affects their ability to interview for a job. Furthermore, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations and those on Neighbor Islands are at greater risk for poor oral health and limited access to oral health care.

Please support reinstating adult dental Medicaid benefits. Oral health is essential to overall health. Reinstating these benefits is a cost-effective, person-centered approach to making our communities healthier.

We support HB1754 and respectfully ask that you pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health issue affecting members of our community.

Sincerely,

J. Leocadia Conlon, PhD, MPH, PA-C
Legislative Committee Chair
Hawai'i Public Health Association



To: Representative Yamane, ChairS
Representative Tam, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Re: **HB 1754- Relating to adult dental Medicaid benefits**
9:00 AM, February 10, 2022

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to **testify in strong support of House bill 1754, relating to adult dental Medicaid benefits**

This is the year to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits for adults on Medicaid. Oral Health is essential to overall health. But since 2009, we have treated oral health like a luxury instead of a need. It is costly to both individuals and the state. Extending dental coverage to patients with chronic health conditions like diabetes and heart disease can lead to cost savings in related areas of health care spending. It's estimated additional medical care cost savings range from \$1.9 million to \$5.3 million.

This is a multi-generation issue. Hawai'i's children have some of the worst oral health outcomes in the country. Our third graders have the highest prevalence of tooth decay and 7 out of 10 third graders are impacted by tooth decay. Oral health habits are a family issue and if parents have access to dental prevention services, the whole family will benefit. Our most vulnerable families had this benefit previously and we believe it should be restored.

Oral health is health and reinstating these benefits is a cost-effective, person-centered approach to making our communities healthier. **For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests the Committee to support this measure.**

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy





KŌKUA KALIHI VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY SERVICES

2239 N. SCHOOL STREET ♦ HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819 ♦ TEL: 808-791-9400 ♦ FAX: 808-848-0979 ♦ www.kkv.net

To: House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 10, 2022, 9:00 AM

Re: HB 1754, RELATING TO ADULT DENTAL MEDICAID BENEFITS.

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to *testify in support* on HB 1754 relating to adult dental Medicaid benefits.

In 2009, Hawaii eliminated diagnostic, preventive and restorative dental services for adults on Medicaid. Hawaii is currently one of only 13 states that provide emergency care only. Since 2009, we have seen increased emergency department (ED) utilization and increased costs related to otherwise preventable conditions.

Recent data show that between 2016 and 2020 there was a total of 29,536 ED visits with a dental related diagnosis among adults aged 21 years and older. Sixty-seven percent (19,691) of these visits had a principal dental diagnosis as the reason they visited the ED. In that same time period, Medicaid claims constituted 45% of the cumulative total charges for the ED visits with a principal dental-related diagnosis, about \$12.3 million.

Moreover, a study published in 2022 found that the average Medicaid enrollee with five continuous years of preventive care experiences 43% lower costs than an individual who received no preventive dental care at all. Most of the savings were a result of fewer oral surgeries. A Medicaid enrollee with no preventive dental visits was eight times more likely to have an ED visit for a nontraumatic dental condition (NTDC), seven times more likely to have oral surgery and six times more likely to receive a dental-related opioid prescription compared to those who had a dental prevention visit every year in the 5-year lookback period.

This highlights the value and cost savings of providing preventive dental care to Medicaid adult enrollees and the impact it has on reducing costly ED visits.

Please support reinstating adult dental Medicaid benefits. Oral health is health and reinstating these benefits is a cost-effective, person-centered approach to making our communities healthier.

Thank you,

David Derauf, MD, MPH

Executive Director

Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services



Testimony in Support of HB 1754

February 8, 2022

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam and Respected Members of the Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness:

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association (HDHA) strongly **SUPPORTS HB 1754**. 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. This provision would directly benefit Hawaii's seniors, as well as adults with developmental and physical disabilities, allowing them to gain access to necessary oral health treatment.

HDHA cannot emphasize enough the importance of dental services that include preventive, restorative, prosthetic, and emergency services for all residents of Hawaii. As prevention specialists, dental hygienists are keenly aware of how oral health, or the lack thereof, can affect all aspects (physical, emotional, psychological, and social) of our lives. Time and again, research has shown that oral health has a direct correlation to over-all health. The mouth, is not a separate entity unto itself, it is connected to and shares a circulatory system with the rest of the body. Ignoring or limiting oral healthcare places Hawaii's adult Medicaid population at significant risk for increased health problems.

As the largest association representing Hawaii's licensed dental hygienists', HDHA strongly **SUPPORTS HB 1754** to address the unnecessary effects of dental disease among Hawaii's people, as well as the phenomenal expense of Medicaid enrollees seeking dental care in emergency room settings. Extending dental coverage to adults with chronic conditions like heart disease and diabetes has been proven to lead to significant cost savings in all areas of healthcare across the nation. The same quality of care and cost savings can be experienced here in Hawaii if adult dental benefits are restored to the Medicaid population.

Thank you for your consideration.



HAWAI'I ORAL HEALTH COALITION

Date: February 10, 2022

To: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Re: Strong Support for HB1754, Relating to Medicaid Benefits

Hrg: February 10, 2022 at 9:00m - Conference Room 329 & via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Oral Health Coalitionⁱ, covered by the Hawai'i Public Health Institute, is in **strong support of HB1754**, which makes an appropriation to restore certain adult dental benefits to Medicaid enrollees.

HB1754 appropriates funds to the DHS to restore basic diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental coverage to adult Medicaid enrollees. In a 2021 survey conducted by Ward Research for HIPHIⁱⁱ, 9 in 10 registered Hawaii voters (92%) strongly agreed that preventative dental benefits should be included in adult Medicaid coverage. Additionally, 38 health and community organizations have expressed support for the reinstatement of this coverage.

Oral health is critical to overall physical, psychological, social, and economic wellbeing. Adults with poor oral health often struggle to manage chronic co-conditions such as diabetes. Researchers have linked poor oral health with cardiovascular disease, stroke and bacterial pneumonia. Pregnant women with poor oral health are at an increased risk of delivering preterm and/or low-birth-weight infants. Missing or broken teeth also create social barriers for adults to find and maintain gainful employment in our service-based economy.

Unfortunately, oral health in our state is a public health crisis, with Hawaii receiving a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report cards released by the Pew Center for the Statesⁱⁱⁱ. Drastic cuts in 2009 eliminated essential dental services for Medicaid enrollees and reduced coverage to emergency only (extraction and pain management).

As a consequence of these cuts, many in Hawai'i and across the nation have turned to emergency rooms for oral health care. The ADA reported in 2016 that ER visits nationwide continued to increase in 2012, costing the US health care system \$1.6 billion per year at an average cost of \$749 per visit^{iv}. In Hawai'i, recent data^v show that between 2016 and 2020 there

was a total of 29,536 ER visits with a dental related diagnosis among adults aged 21 years and older, with an average of 10% of patients who visited ER for principal dental-related conditions having revisited the ER at least twice in the same year. Sixty-seven percent (19,691) of these visits had a principal dental diagnosis as the reason they visited the ER. In that same time period, Medicaid claims constituted 45% of the cumulative total charges for the ER visits with a principal dental-related diagnosis, about \$12.3 million. This does not include the total charges for secondary dental-related diagnoses. An estimated 79% of ER dental visits could be diverted to community settings, saving about 48% of the cost of each visit^{vi}.

HB1754 is a necessary health equity measure. The lack of coverage for diagnostic, preventative, and restorative dental services has had a disparate impact on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations, and those on Neighbor Islands, who are at greater risk for poor oral health and limited access to oral health care. Hawai'i County and Kaua'i County saw the state's highest rates of ER visits with a dental-related diagnosis, and a large portion of Medicaid claims for ER visits with a principal diagnosis between 2016 and 2020 were submitted for Native Hawaiians/Part Native Hawaiian (about 31%, or 2,991) patients.

In 2020, the Health Policy Institute of the American Dental Association published a specific fiscal analysis for Legislative consideration about the costs versus cost-savings in reinstating preventive and restorative dental benefits for adults on Medicaid^{vii}. This analysis highlights three funding options for coverage ranging from basic to comprehensive. The federal government does match up to 50% of the state's investment in reinstating diagnostic, preventative and restorative dental coverage for all adult Medicaid recipients and, to date, 34 states do offer limited or comprehensive benefits for its adult Medicaid recipients^{viii}.

In order to adequately address the high needs of this population, due to the lack of access to preventive care since 2009, adults on Medicaid will require greater coverage than what is offered in Option 1 detailed in the ADA-HPI analysis. While covering exams, cleanings, and limited restorations is a step in the right direction, patients may continue to seek dental care from emergency departments across the state, or simply defer care due to continued lack of restorative coverage.

We **strongly support** the reinstatement of diagnostic, preventative, and restorative dental coverage for adults in Hawai'i enrolled in Medicaid and respectfully ask you to pass this important measure with careful consideration for what services it will cover. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,



Patrick Donnelly
Statewide Oral Health Coalition Manager,
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

ⁱ The Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition is community driven and led with fiscal sponsorship from the Hawaii Public Health Institute. Its members represent all Hawai'i islands and diverse sectors across the State. The mission of the Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition is to improve the overall health and wellbeing of all Hawai'i residents by increasing access and equity in oral health care through collaborative partnerships, advocacy, and education.

ⁱⁱ Findings from a Ward Research Study commissioned by the Hawai'i Public Health Institute that summarizes findings from a phone survey among n=810 Hawaii registered voters (+/-3.3 margin of error) conducted between October 26 to November 30, 2021. A copy of the results are available upon request.

ⁱⁱⁱ Hawai'i Oral Health: Key Findings, Hawai'i Department of Health. August 2015.

^{iv} Emergency department use for dental conditions continues to increase. Health Policy Institute Research Brief. American Dental Association. April 2015.

^v Laulima Data Alliance Hawai'i inpatient and Outpatient dental ER data (2016-2020). Accessed October 12, 2021.

^{vi, vii} Estimating the Cost of Introducing Comprehensive Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits in Hawai'i, Health Policy Institute Research Brief. American Dental Association. February 2020.

^{viii} Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits Coverage by State, Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc., September 2019.



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

Papa Ola Lōkahi

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 10, 2022, 9:00AM, Videoconference

RE: HB 1754 – Relating to Medicaid Benefits

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Dear Chair Imane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness,

Papa Ola Lōkahi **supports** HB 1754, along with its companion bill SB 1294, which would provide funds to increase access to oral health care by restoring diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees. The 2009 elimination of dental services from Medicaid appears to be linked to serious impacts, including increased emergency department utilization and more costly oral health concerns. Data from 2006 and 2012 in Hawai‘i shows that Medicaid emergency department visits increased by 67%, which translated into hospital charges increasing from about \$4 million to over \$8.5 million.¹

Papa Ola Lōkahi supports efforts to provide protective and preventive measures through person-centered policies that guard and sustain the health of our communities. This bill calls for funding that has a clear impact for the Medicaid population; oral disease risk is higher for those who suffer from chronic conditions such as heart disease, emphysema, diabetes, hepatitis C, and obesity.² Native Hawaiians experience shorter life expectancies and higher mortality rates due to these chronic conditions and are also overrepresented in the Medicaid population, so the provision of dental services impacts Native Hawaiian health disproportionately.

Native Hawaiians hold a holistic view of health, in which the health of the people, land, and spiritual realms are interconnected. This perspective lends to envisioning health care policies, programs, and delivery that provide resources for all aspects of health and ensure equitable access to services. HB 1754, as a step to those larger goals, works to provide a critical set of services to those most in need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this important legislation.

About Papa Ola Lōkahi

Papa Ola Lōkahi holds the mission of improving the health status and well-being of Native Hawaiians and others by advocating for, initiating, and maintaining culturally appropriate strategic actions aimed at improving the physical, mental, and spiritual health of Native Hawaiians and their ‘ohana, and empowering them to determine their own destinies. This mission works towards Papa Ola Lōkahi’s vision of a thriving Native community of health individuals, families, and communities who are informed about their rich heritage and culture living in a state of lōkahi (unity) and making informed choices and responsible decisions in a safe island society that is pono (in proper order). Created through the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, Papa Ola Lōkahi is the designated organization charged with a variety of mandates, which include coordinating, implementing, and updating a Native Hawaiian comprehensive health care master plan; leading the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems; and housing the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program.

¹ Hawai‘i Oral Health: Key Findings. (2015). Family Health Services Division. Hawai‘i State Department of Health.

https://health.hawaii.gov/about/files/2013/06/Key_Findings_wC.pdf

² Griffin S, Barker L, Griffin P, Cleveland J, Kohn W. Oral health needs among adults in the United States with chronic diseases. *J Am Dent Assoc.* 2009;140(10):1266-1274.

Papa Ola Lokahi

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

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Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD



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

February 10, 2022
9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 329 Via Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Ryan I. Yamane
The Honorable Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam
House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

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

Re: HB1754, Relating to Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits; **In Support**

'Ohana Health Plan offers our **support** of HB1754, which appropriates funds to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees; provided that the department of human services obtains maximum federal matching funds available and pursues all funding sources, including private grants, prior to expending any general fund appropriations.

'Ohana Health Plan is a wholly owned subsidiary of Centene Corporation, a leading multi-national healthcare enterprise committed to helping people live healthier lives. Since 2008, 'Ohana Health Plan has provided government-sponsored managed care services to families—from keiki to kupuna—and individuals with complex medical needs primarily through QUEST Integration (Medicaid), Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans across the state.

Poor oral health is one of the most important issues facing our state, particularly with the Medicaid population. In 2009, drastic budget cuts were made and essential dental services for Medicaid enrollees were reduced to emergency-only extractions and pain management. To date, Hawaii is one of only 13 states that provide emergency dental care only. And while oral health can often be overlooked, there is a clear correlation between oral health and overall health.

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 diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees would be relatively small in comparison to the downstream cost savings to the entire healthcare system.

We strongly urge the passage of HB1754. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 10, 2022, 9:00am

Re: HB1754 - RELATING TO ADULT DENTAL MEDICAID BENEFITS.

Aloha Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee,

My name is Linda Dorset, a citizen of Wailuku, Maui, and I am personally affected by this legislation because I recently lost my employer sponsored dental coverage due to retirement. I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the above referenced legislation.

HB1754 Appropriating funds to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees, which the State terminated and replaced with emergency room services limited to pain relief, injuries, and extraction. To not approve this seems to me to be cutting from essential services just when I and other retirees need them most. Especially since the lack of preventive and restorative dentistry services for adult Medicaid beneficiaries increases health care complications due to diabetes and heart disease.

Dental coverage is not mandated by Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act, and is not a covered benefit for adults under the Affordable Care Act, Medicare, or Medicaid

Research estimates potential medical care cost savings of \$1,900,000 to \$5,300,000 per year attributable to a reduction in emergency department visits for dental conditions and reduced medical care costs among Medicaid beneficiaries with diabetes and coronary artery disease.

Thank you for your attention

Linda Dorset

HB-1754

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 5:17:08 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melanie Maykin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairperson Yamane and Vice Chairperson Tam,

I strongly urge you to pass HB1754. I am a maternal-fetal medicine physician caring for high risk pregnancies within the state. Like nearly half of all births in the nation, a large portion of our pregnant patients and their births in Hawaii are publicly insured. Dental disease is a known risk factor for obstetric complications including preterm birth. Therefore, restoring adult dental Medicaid benefits would certainly enable pregnant individuals to access dental care for both prevention and treatment, which may impact their pregnancy outcomes.

Although the deleterious effects of oral disease on pregnancy is not well known, I'd like to share one of many real patient experiences that highlights this issue. I was caring for a 30 year old, Ms. A, who came to the hospital in preterm labor at 29 weeks, almost 3 months before she was due. This patient had Type I Diabetes which poses great risk to both her and her baby's well-being. On further evaluation, this patient was in diabetic ketoacidosis, which is when the body produces very high levels of acids which can lead to coma and even death. Unfortunately, Ms. A had to be delivered premature due to her condition and her baby had to go to the neonatal intensive care unit. The only identifiable culprit that triggered the acidosis and possibly in turn, the preterm labor, was a tooth infection. Ms. A had a history of tooth infections but the resources for her dental care were limited.

Reinstating adult dental medicaid benefits would benefit so many people in our state, including pregnant individuals and their babies.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony,

Melanie Maykin, MD

HB-1754

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 4:38:39 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sierra Whiteside	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

All individuals should be cared for medically and especially with dental care. If you are turned away because of no insurance, lack of insurance or "just" having Medicaid, I feel this is wrong for humans. So much can go wrong with unattended oral health, so why not just fix people with their oral health issues and avoid major problems or even death down the line.

Bill: HB 1754, Relating to Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits

Hearing Date & Time: Thursday, February 10, 2022, 9:00am

Committees: House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness

Testifier: Nancy Partika, RN, MPH

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam, and Members of the House Committee on HHH:

My name is Nancy Partika, and I am the Hawaii grassroots representative for OPEN (the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network). I have worked to help identify and address oral health disparities in Hawaii at the community level for the past 5 years.

Hawaii has visibly struggled for decades with oral health disparities and problems accessing care for its most needy. The 2009 abolishment of adult dental benefits under 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 and for other health-related services statewide that does not provide adequate oral health care or support to our at-risk populations such as those on Medicaid.

According to a newly-completed 2021 JABSOM/HOHC study of ER use statewide for acute oral health conditions, adult Medicaid beneficiaries represent about 25% of Hawaii's population, but they are 47% of all dental services provided by ERs statewide.

Between 2016 and 2020, Medicaid recipients averaged 2,700 emergency room visits per year for acute oral health conditions, totaling \$21,700,000 in charges for outpatient emergency room services alone. Neighbor island ERs on Hawaii island and Kauai have higher rates of ER use for acute dental conditions.

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 dollars to pay upfront for preventative and restorative dental care benefits for Medicaid recipients.

Poor oral health is already proven to be linked to an array of acute and chronic health conditions, including: heart disease, diabetes, stroke, depression, low birth weight and premature birth. Researchers have mapped 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 chronically ill or pregnant can be another significant potential area for return on investment. We now recognize that not intervening in oral health conditions early and preventively will cost much more later on in unintended direct and indirect costs.

Currently most states now offer adult Medicaid recipients preventive and restorative adult oral health benefits. By adding a comprehensive or limited dental services benefit, Hawaii's adults on Medicaid should be able 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.

The Hawaii MQD-DHS and the State Legislature received the Hawaii-specific fiscal analysis from the Health Policy Institute of the American Dental Association in February 2020 that projected both costs and cost-benefits to restore Hawaii adult dental benefits. Three options for reinstating dental benefits were provided at that time.

It has been 12 years since adult dental benefits (other than emergency) have been accessible, and so we should anticipate that many adults on Medicaid will be needing more than basic/skeletal preventive dental

care. It is therefore recommended that the House advocate for Option 2, which would enable Medicaid recipients to get a wider range of diagnostic, preventive and restorative services. as well as basic prosthodontic and periodontal services, as needed.

The difference in State funding would be \$8,823,781 in state funds for option 2, versus \$3,466,328 in State funds for option 1. Federal funding from would provide the remainder of the costs of the benefits under the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP).

Limited coverage under option 1 would be capped per recipient and may only cover an annual exam, fluoride treatment, bi-annual cleanings, one set of bite wing X-rays per year and one non-emergency tooth extraction or filling per year. As you can imagine, dental care for someone who has been without any for a long while is likely to exceed this limited benefit. It seems that reinstating coverage to the second option makes more sense, given the high costs paid for poor oral health exacerbated co-conditions and visits to the ER for acute dental care.

What is important to note that this fiscal analysis also projects that over time, additional medical care cost savings estimates range from \$1.9 million per year to \$5.3 million, due to health status improvements in co-occurring health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, pregnancy, and fewer ER visits for services

Your strong support for this HB 1754 is respectfully requested—Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Summary of Findings for Statewide ER Visits with a Dental-Related Diagnosis: Hawai'i 2016-2020 (JABSOM-HOHC Study-2021)

1. There was a total of 29,536 ER visits with a dental related diagnosis by adults aged 21 years and older
2. 67% (19,691) of the adult visits had a principal dental diagnosis that they visited the ER
3. A significant proportion of the ER visits with a principal dental-related diagnosis were treated:
 - in Honolulu County (56%, 11,118)
 - for those aged 21-44 years old (62%, 12,138)
 - for Medicaid recipients (49%, 9,680)
 - Native Hawaiian/Part Native Hawaiian (24%, 5,018) patients
4. A large portion of Medicaid claims for ER visits with a principal diagnosis were submitted for Native Hawaiians/Part Native Hawaiian (31%, 2,991) patients
5. Medicaid claims constituted 45% of the cumulative total charges for the ER visits with a principal dental-related diagnosis (\$12.3M/27.5M)
6. An average of 10% of patients who visited ER for dental-related conditions revisited the ER at least twice in the same year
7. Higher rates of ER visits with a dental-related diagnosis were found for Hawai'i County, Kaua'i County, and in 21-44 year old patients.

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 1754

Date of Hearing/Time:

February 10, 2022, 9:00 am

Committee:

Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

February 8, 2022

Dear Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in very strong support on HB1754 relating to adult dental Medicaid benefits.

My name is Dr. Andrew Tseu and currently employed as a community center dentist. I am submitting testimony as a Hawaii resident. 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 essential to overall health. Oral health is a crucial part of a person's physical, psychological, social and economic health and well-being. Extending dental coverage to patients with chronic health conditions like diabetes and heart disease can lead to cost savings in related areas of health care spending. Missing or broken teeth also create social barriers for adults to find and maintain gainful employment in our community.

We are currently one of only 13 states that provide emergency care only. As a result of our past decade of minimal coverage for dental care, Hawaii's emergency rooms have been overutilized for otherwise preventable dental conditions to the tune of thousands of visits per year, costing millions of dollars annually.

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.

Best regards,



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

HB-1754

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:30:54 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Deseree Tano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

From: Deseree Tano

Hearing Date: February 10, 2022 AT 9:00AM

RE: HB 1754 RELATING ADULT DENTAL MEDICAID BENEFITS

Position: Strong Support

My name is Deseree Tano an MSW student and an intern with the Developmental Disability Council. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of House Bill 1754, relating to adult dental Medicaid benefits.

For twelve years, adult Medicaid recipients have suffered and endured the physical and financial pain of dental care. Due to financial constraints and a fixed income, many have not received dental care for years because of their inability to pay for services out of their pocket. Poor oral health increases potential and risks for other health issues; this is unacceptable. With the passage of this measure, the long-term costs savings for preventative dental care will outweigh the medical cost paid by Medicaid, but more importantly we will keep the adults in our community healthier.

I urge the committee to support this measure and restore adult dental Medicaid benefits. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1754.

Mahalo,

Deseree Tano

HB-1754

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:51:51 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important legislation to support the overall dental health of adults and especially our Kapuna on Medicaid. Thank you

Date: February 8, 2022

To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Re: **Strong Support for HB1754**, Relating to Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits

Hrg: Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 9:00 AM, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Aloha House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness,

As a healthcare professional and member of the East Hawaii community, I am writing in **strong support of HB1754**, which appropriates funds to restore diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees provided the department of human services obtains maximum federal matching funds available and pursues all funding sources, including private grants, prior to expending any general fund appropriations.

Oral health is essential to overall health and well-being. Extending dental coverage to adult Medicaid patients with chronic health conditions like diabetes and heart disease can lead to cost savings in related areas of health care spending.

Since adult Medicaid diagnostic, preventive and restorative dental services were eliminated in 2009 Hawaii has seen increased Emergency Room utilization and significantly increased costs for otherwise preventable oral health conditions.

Oral health inequity is an issue in Hawaii. Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations, and those on Neighbor Islands are at greater risk for poor oral health and limited access to oral health care.

Oral health is health and reinstating these benefits is a cost-effective, person-centered approach to improving overall health in our communities.

Please support reinstating adult dental Medicaid benefits.

I **strongly support HB1754** and respectfully ask you to pass this bill out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Keaau, HI

HB-1754

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 11:37:56 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Save Medicaid Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Save Medicaid Hawaii supports HB1754



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

From: Jacce Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 10, 2022

Re: In support of HB 1754: Relating to Adult Dental Medicaid Benefits.

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit 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, and more than 1,500 affiliated physicians and providers 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 of HB 1754, which would allow for the appropriation of funds to restore dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees provided that the Department of Human Services obtain the maximum allowed federal matching and other public and, or, private sources of funding prior to expending any general fund appropriations. Restoration of these funds to provide comprehensive oral health coverage to adults in Medicaid helps avert unnecessary health care costs associated with emergency visits, reduces our State's overall dental spending, and has been shown to help the overall employment and economic security of enrollees.

Annually our Punchbowl facility cares for over 5000 patients who need dental procedures; of those served, roughly half are Medicaid enrollees or uninsured. Our services include preventative oral care, treatment of dental diseases, and higher acuity dentistry (dental procedures that can only be done in a hospital based clinic setting).

Thank you for allowing The Queen's Health Systems to testify in support of HB 1754.

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.

HB-1754

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 2:45:10 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara DeBaryshe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam, and members of the Health, Human Services, and Homelessness committee:

I am writing in **strong suport of HB1754.**

Oral health is essential to overall health and it makes no sense for this to be excluded from our health insurance and healthcare systems. As a taxpayer, I am completely in favor of including dental benefits in MedQUEST services.

Thank you for continuing Hawaii's legacy of progressive health services.

HB-1754

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:36:23 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brian Burdt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Preventive and restorative dental care services for adult medicaid recipients is vital to ensure health equity across the islands. I strongly support HB 1754.

Mahalo,

Brian Burdt

Maui

HB-1754

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:55:16 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marguerite Bartholomew	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Re: HB 1754: Support.

I am a high risk pregnancy care physician and support health insurance coverage for dental care for all people and most importantly for those who have Medicaid insurance. Periodontal disease and tooth decay is painful, disfiguring, and increases risks for preterm birth and heart disease in pregnant women. Tooth loss is also demoralizing, and stigmatizing. The most vulnerable residents of our state are particularly susceptible to dental disease due to the absence of flouride in our water and the high cost of dental care. Many pregnant women who need dental care are rejected by providers who erroneously believe it may be "dangerous" during pregnancy. Medicaid coverage for dental care will go a long way to provide an example to dental care providers that all dental care including xrays is safe and not to be avoided during pregnancy. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1754

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 5:03:37 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Corrie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a *high-risk pregnancy physician* in Hawai'i, and **I strongly support HB1754** which would restore adult dental Medicaid benefits. Including dental benefits for Medicaid recipients creates an opportunity to improve the health of Hawai'i's most at-risk patient populations: pregnant women receiving Medicaid.

Pregnancy itself changes the normal bacterial makeup of the oral cavity leading to periodontal disease. Addressing poor dentition during pregnancy can help advert pregnancy complications such as preterm birth and preeclampsia (high blood pressure in pregnancy).

This link **has been specifically indentified in our community**, by Deborah Mattheus PhD and others in the UH school of Nursing and published in The Hawai'i Journal of Medicine and Public Health, Titled "The Association Between Socio-demographic Factors, Dental Problems, and Preterm Labor for Pregnant Women Residing in Hawai'i" - August 2016, Volume 75, No 8:

This study found that women who reported having a dental problem during pregnancy were more likely to experience PTL (OR=1.46, 95% CI=1.10-1.94, P=.008) compared to women without a dental problem. In addition, Native Hawaiian and Part-Hawaiian women were more likely to experience PTL (OR=1.73, 95% CI=1.22-2.46, P=.002) compared to Caucasian women. These findings document the underutilization of dental services in pregnant women in Hawai'i and reveal an association between poor dental care and PTL.

Preterm labor leads to expensive Neonatal Intensive Care Admission and increased healthcare costs.

As of January 2021, 32 US States covered preventative services such as cleanings for adult Medicaid enrollees.

We urge you to add Hawai'i to this list and ask you consider the health of pregnant patients in particular by adding dental benefits to adult Medicaid in Hawai'i.

We urge you to pass HB1754. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Corrie Miller, DO MSCR

Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto
Rep. Sharon E. Har
Rep. Gene Ward
Rep. Jeanne Kapela

February 10, 2023

Re: Support of HB1754

Aloha Chair Yamane and members of the committee,

I am writing in support of HB1754 as a widow caring for my adult child with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) on Medicaid and not as an elected official.

One of the most important pieces of legislation that I participated in was the creation of the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council in 1990 which brought the Zero to 3 program to our state. At that time our concern was for medicaid dental benefits for infants and toddlers with IDD. I commend our legislators who had the foresight at that time (Mamoru Yamasaki and Joseph Souki) of providing for those infants and toddlers their dental needs.

Today, those infants and toddlers are now adults in need of the restoration of diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental benefits. Many of these adults are of Native Hawaiian ancestry and I would like to remind this legislature that 80% of all ceded lands revenue are deposited into the general fund for public purposes. Native Hawaiians are the public and it is fitting for this body to care for the indigenous people of this place.

On another note, I would like to remind this body of the outstanding debt owed to the beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Home Lands trust who are members of the Kalima v Ige lawsuit. There is a direct correlation between the history of this state, the United States government and the state in which native Hawaiians find themselves.

I ask this committee to render their vote to pass out this legislation; and, at the appointed time-in the appropriate committees, pay out the Kalima v Ige to beneficiaries who are still waiting.

Respectfully submitted,

N. Tasha Kama

HB-1754

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 7:04:43 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pai-Jong Stacy Tsai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I've been a high-risk pregnancy subspecialist in Hawaii for 8 years and have seen too many patients with pregnancy complications due their periodontal disease. Access to comprehensive dental care is critical for maternal and neonatal health. I urge you to pass HB 1754