
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ORAL HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's oral health
2 program is not meeting the needs of residents. Unlike forty-two
3 other states, this State's department of health does not retain
4 dedicated oral health staff to assess and monitor the
5 population's oral health status, community needs, and assets;
6 inform and educate people about oral health; mobilize community
7 partners to leverage resources; develop, champion, and implement
8 policies, laws, and plans that support oral health efforts;
9 reduce barriers to care; assure a competent and skilled public
10 and private oral health workforce; and improve public oral
11 health functions through ongoing evaluation and continuous
12 quality improvement.

13 The legislature further finds that the adult medicaid
14 population has limited access to dental care. While there are
15 more than 288,000 adults with medicaid dental benefits, there is
16 a lack of dental providers for this population. Additionally,
17 while federally qualified health centers in each county are a



1 critical medical and oral health safety net, approximately
2 forty-two thousand people of all ages and covered by all types
3 of health insurance were served by the health centers in 2021.

4 The legislature additionally finds that while the
5 department of health operates five small dental clinics and also
6 serves individuals who are elderly, blind, intellectually
7 disabled, developmentally disabled, and mentally ill, all
8 clinics are located in the city and county of Honolulu. The
9 State does not operate dental clinics to serve similar
10 populations in other counties. The legislature notes that three
11 hundred thirty-nine dentists in the State currently accept and
12 treat adults covered by medicaid.

13 While the legislature allocated more than \$25,000,000 in
14 2022 to reinstate adult medicaid dental benefits, the
15 legislature is concerned that the current oral health
16 infrastructure is insufficient to deliver oral health services
17 to those most in need.

18 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 19 (1) Establish an oral health task force to review
20 information and data on the status of oral health in



1 the State and make recommendations to improve the
2 State's oral health infrastructure; and

3 (2) Appropriate funds to help facilitate the work of the
4 oral health task force.

5 SECTION 2. (a) There is established an oral health task
6 force to be placed within the department of health for
7 administrative purposes.

8 (b) The oral health task force shall:

9 (1) Review all information and data relating to oral
10 health status in Hawaii, including the Hawaii Oral
11 Health Coalition 2022-2023 environmental scan, for
12 evidence of key oral health issues and evident areas
13 for action;

14 (2) Review all information and data relating to the
15 department of health oral health program functions and
16 processes and make recommendations regarding
17 organizational structure, personnel needs, contracted
18 service needs, required resources, and potential
19 additional funding and support;

20 (3) Review and analyze systemic issues in oral health
21 services and processes statewide and make



1 recommendations for systemic changes and improvements
2 to improve equity in oral health;

3 (4) Develop an oral health strategic blueprint that
4 includes goals, objectives, specific actions, and
5 resources needed;

6 (5) Act as a systemic facilitator for key oral health
7 stakeholders so that complex and problematic issues
8 can be discussed and addressed in a timely and
9 effective manner;

10 (6) Ensure that there are agreed-upon community metrics
11 for analyzing the development and implementation of
12 medicaid funding for oral health; and

13 (7) Make recommendations to state and county policymakers
14 regarding systemic actions recommended to improve oral
15 health in Hawaii.

16 (c) The oral health task force shall consist of the
17 following members:

18 (1) One representative of the family health services
19 division of the department of health, to be appointed
20 by the director of health;



- 1 (2) One representative of the developmental disabilities
2 division of the department of health, to be appointed
3 by the director of health;
- 4 (3) One representative of the med-QUEST division of the
5 department of human services, to be appointed by the
6 director of human services;
- 7 (4) One representative of the student services branch of
8 the department of education, to be appointed by the
9 superintendent of education;
- 10 (5) One representative of the state council on
11 developmental disabilities, to be appointed by the
12 speaker of the house of representatives;
- 13 (6) A faculty member of the university of Hawaii at Manoa
14 Nancy Atmospera-Walch school of nursing dental hygiene
15 program, to be appointed by the speaker of the house
16 of representatives;
- 17 (7) One representative of the university of Hawaii John A.
18 Burns school of medicine, to be appointed by the
19 president of the senate;
- 20 (8) One representative of the county of Hawaii who is a
21 department of health employee or community oral health



- 1 representative, to be appointed by the president of
2 the senate;
- 3 (9) One representative of the county of Maui, to be
4 appointed by the speaker of the house of
5 representatives;
- 6 (10) One representative of the county of Kauai, to be
7 appointed by the president of the senate;
- 8 (11) One representative of the Hawaii Oral Health
9 Coalition, to be invited by the president of the
10 senate;
- 11 (12) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Association,
12 to be invited by the speaker of the house of
13 representatives;
- 14 (13) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Service, to be
15 invited by the president of the senate;
- 16 (14) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Service
17 Foundation, to be invited by the speaker of the house
18 of representatives;
- 19 (15) One representative of a Hawaii dental medicaid
20 insurer, to be invited by the president of the senate;



- 1 (16) Two community advocates for medicaid and oral health,
2 one each to be invited by the speaker of the house of
3 representatives and president of the senate,
4 respectively;
- 5 (17) One representative of the Hawaii Primary Care
6 Association, to be invited by the president of the
7 senate;
- 8 (18) One representative of the Native Hawaiian Health Care
9 Systems, to be invited by the speaker of the house of
10 representatives;
- 11 (19) One representative of Papa Ola Lokahi, to be invited
12 by the president of the senate;
- 13 (20) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Hygienists'
14 Association, to be invited by the speaker of the house
15 of representatives; and
- 16 (21) One representative advocate from the private practice
17 dental community who is working with the adult
18 medicaid population and other medicaid-associated
19 dentists, to be invited by the director of health.
- 20 (d) The representative of the family health services
21 division of the department of health shall serve as the



1 chairperson of the task force. If the representative of the
2 family health services division of the department of health is
3 unable to serve as the chairperson of the task force, the
4 members of the task force shall select a chairperson from among
5 the remaining members.

6 (e) The oral health task force shall submit an interim
7 report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature no
8 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
9 Session of 2025. The department of health shall submit a final
10 report of the oral health task force's findings and
11 recommendations, pursuant to section 321-63, Hawaii Revised
12 Statutes, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature
13 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
14 Session of 2027.

15 (f) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2027.

16 (g) No member of the task force shall be made subject to
17 section 84-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that
18 member's participation on the task force. The task force shall
19 be exempt from part I of chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

20 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of
21 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and



1 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
2 that the appropriations contained in this Act will cause the
3 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025
4 to be exceeded by \$, or per cent. The reasons
5 for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the
6 appropriations made in this Act are necessary to serve the
7 public interest and to meet the needs provided for by this Act.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
11 family health services division of the department of health to
12 contract with a consultant to facilitate the work of the oral
13 health task force, including completing the interim and final
14 reports required by subsection (e) of section 2 of this Act.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
16 health for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$79,872 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
20 establishment of one permanent full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)



1 program specialist V position within the family health services
2 division of the department of health.

3 This position shall:

4 (1) Collect, analyze, and evaluate information relevant to
5 specific oral health policy issues and related
6 material to enable oral health task force members to
7 develop informed policy recommendations affecting oral
8 health care;

9 (2) Serve as the representative of the department of
10 health oral health program to the Hawaii Oral Health
11 Coalition;

12 (3) Develop, administer, monitor, and provide oversight of
13 the contract for a consultant to facilitate the work
14 of the oral health task force; and

15 (4) Serve as a liaison between the department of health
16 and other state agencies on the oral health task
17 force.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 health for the purposes of this Act.



H.B. NO. 2744

1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
2 provided that sections 4 and 5 shall take effect on July 1,
3 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Nadine K. Puhar*
JAN 24 2024



H.B. NO. 2744

Report Title:

Oral Health; Task Force; Department of Health; Positions;
Reports; Appropriations; General Fund Expenditure Ceiling
Exceeded

Description:

Establishes an oral health task force to review the status of oral health in the State and make recommendations to improve the State's oral health infrastructure. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates moneys. Declares that the appropriations exceed the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

