
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) One faculty member of the university of Hawaii at
14 Manoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch school of nursing dental
15 hygiene program, to be appointed by the speaker of the
16 house 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 who is a
4 member of the private practice dental community who is
5 working with the adult medicaid population or other
6 medicaid-associated dentists, to be appointed by the
7 speaker of the house of representatives;

8 (10) One representative of the county of Kauai who is a
9 community oral health representative, to be appointed
10 by the president of the senate;

11 (11) One representative of the city and county of Honolulu
12 who is a member of the private practice dental
13 community who is working with the adult medicaid
14 population or other medicaid-associated dentists, to
15 be appointed by the speaker of the house of
16 representatives;

17 (12) One representative of the Hawaii Oral Health
18 Coalition, to be invited by the president of the
19 senate;



- 1 (13) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Association,
2 to be invited by the speaker of the house of
3 representatives;
- 4 (14) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Service, to be
5 invited by the president of the senate;
- 6 (15) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Service
7 Foundation, to be invited by the speaker of the house
8 of representatives;
- 9 (16) One representative of a Hawaii dental medicaid
10 insurer, to be invited by the president of the senate;
- 11 (17) Two community advocates for medicaid and oral health,
12 one each to be invited by the speaker of the house of
13 representatives and president of the senate,
14 respectively;
- 15 (18) One representative of the Hawaii Primary Care
16 Association, to be invited by the president of the
17 senate;
- 18 (19) One representative of the Native Hawaiian Health Care
19 Systems, to be invited by the speaker of the house of
20 representatives;



1 (20) One representative of Papa Ola Lokahi, to be invited
2 by the president of the senate; and

3 (21) One representative of the Hawaii Dental Hygienists'
4 Association, to be invited by the speaker of the house
5 of representatives.

6 (d) The representative of the family health services
7 division of the department of health shall serve as the
8 chairperson of the task force. If the representative of the
9 family health services division of the department of health is
10 unable to serve as the chairperson of the task force, the
11 members of the task force shall select a chairperson from among
12 the remaining members.

13 (e) The oral health task force shall submit an interim
14 report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature no
15 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
16 Session of 2025. The department of health shall submit a final
17 report of the oral health task force's findings and
18 recommendations, as part of its annual report submitted pursuant
19 to section 321-63, Hawaii Revised Statutes, including any
20 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
21 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027.



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

2 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of
3 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
4 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
5 that the appropriations contained in this Act will cause the
6 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025
7 to be exceeded by \$, or per cent. The reasons
8 for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the
9 appropriations made in this Act are necessary to serve the
10 public interest and to meet the needs provided for by this Act.

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

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

20 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
2 the establishment of permanent full-time equivalent
3 (FTE) program specialist V positions within the family
4 health services division of the department of health.

5 This position shall:

- 6 (1) Collect, analyze, and evaluate information relevant to
7 specific oral health policy issues and related
8 material to enable oral health task force members to
9 develop informed policy recommendations affecting oral
10 health care;
- 11 (2) Serve as the representative of the department of
12 health oral health program to the Hawaii Oral Health
13 Coalition;
- 14 (3) Develop, administer, monitor, and provide oversight of
15 the contract for a consultant to facilitate the work
16 of the oral health task force; and
- 17 (4) Serve as a liaison between the department of health
18 and other state agencies on the oral health task
19 force.

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



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000;
2 provided that sections 4 and 5 shall take effect on July 1,
3 2024.



Report Title:

Oral Health; Task Force; Department of Health; Positions;
Reports; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

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 funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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

