



## Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

The mission of the Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition is to **improve the overall health and well-being** of all Hawai'i residents by **increasing access and equity in oral health care** through collaborative partnerships, advocacy, and education.

**Values:** We are brought together with common values: equity, community, pono, integrity.

**Our vision:** Outstanding oral health for the people of Hawai'i, leading to healthy, fulfilled lives.

### Equity

We take action to reduce oral health disparities statewide and advocate for person-centered health care through policy and system changes.

### Community

We include all voices, promoting authenticity and trust, to ensure diversity and foster a sense of belonging, involvement, and ownership.

### Pono

We advocate for community and government action to uphold the rights of all, especially the most vulnerable people in our state, to receive appropriate and respectful oral health care.

### Integrity

We create and maintain a safe environment for openly sharing ideas, agendas, and concerns, and employ best practices and evidence based decision-making.

### Contact Us

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#### Did you know?

Hawai'i has among the highest rates of poor oral health in the country.

Significant disparities were identified among residents relating to ethnicity, income, education, insurance, and geography.

Low-income residents are more likely to experience dental problems.

Children in Hawai'i have the highest prevalence of tooth decay in the nation.



## What is Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition (HOHC)?

The HOHC was established in the summer of 2019 but follows in the footsteps of decades of collaboration within the oral health community. The HOHC is community owned and led with fiscal sponsorship from the Hawai'i Public Health Institute and has membership representation from all islands and diverse sectors.

**The structure:** We currently have four committees that you can join.

### Advocacy

Advocates for the oral health needs of Hawai'i's communities, especially populations disadvantaged by poverty and barriers to care.

### Workforce Development

Evaluates and addresses the oral health workforce capacity and functions to improve access to oral health for Hawai'i residents, with the focus on the under-served and vulnerable populations.

### Data/Surveillance

Compiles statistical and anecdotal information related to oral health access and equity issues; with attention to specific programs addressing oral health throughout the State of Hawai'i. The committee will also collect data regarding the general oral health need and inequity among under-served and vulnerable populations.

### Prevention and Access

Working on improving preventative care and access to oral health services for children, seniors, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and other under-served populations.

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