

REINSTATING HAWAII ADULT MEDICAID DENTAL BENEFITS IN 2020

Oral health is more than just teeth

Hawaii has received a failing grade for oral health since 2010 according to the Pew Center of the States



180,000

adult Medicaid beneficiaries that do NOT have coverage for preventive and restorative dental treatment

3000

ER visits for acute oral health conditions in 2016

\$17 mil

in direct ER costs

56%

of all dental ER visits are Medicaid beneficiaries

Significant disparities exist in Hawaii



Rural and low-income families experience poorer oral health and higher ER utilization for dental issues

Poor oral health is associated with acute and chronic health issues including:

- Heart disease
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Low birth weight

Improved oral health is associated with:

- ↑ social interactions
- ↑ employment opportunities

GOOD ORAL HEALTH IS ESSENTIAL TO OVERALL HEALTH

A WISE INVESTMENT

While reinstating benefits is a **SOCIAL JUSTICE** issue, improving oral health can **SAVE** in other health care costs:

- **Lower usage of ER**
 - 79% of ER visits could be diverted to a community setting, saving 48% of the cost per visit
- **Improved chronic conditions**
 - HPI-ADA estimates a cost savings of up to \$1.7 mil for the diabetic population each year with adult Medicaid dental benefits
- **Reduced risk for pregnancy complications**
 - Birth costs for a premature/underweight newborn range from \$200,000-2 mil

34 states offer comprehensive or limited preventive and restorative benefits to adults



HAWAII CAN DO BETTER

In a 2018 survey conducted by Ward Research for HIPHI, 9 in 10 registered Hawaii voters (89%) **STRONGLY AGREED** that preventative dental benefits should be included in adult Medicaid coverage.



The federal government will match up to 50% of the State's investment

Join the many organizations
State-wide that support

REINSTATING PREVENTIVE AND RESTORATIVE DENTAL BENEFITS FOR ALL ADULTS ON MEDICAID

- AlohaCare
- Aloha Independent Living Hawaii
- Aloha Medical Mission
- Bay Clinic
- Catholic Charities Hawaii
- Easterseals Hawaii
- Family Support Hawaii
- Hawaii Action Coalition
- Hawaii- American Nurses Association
- Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses
- Hawaii Children's Action Network
- Hawaii Dental Association
- Hawaii Dental Service
- Hawaii Dental Service Foundation
- Hawaii Disability Rights Center
- Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center
- Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition, a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute
- Hawaii Self Advocacy Advisory Council
- Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Hawaii State Rural Health Association
- HMSA Foundation
- Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi
- Hui No Ke Ola Pono Maui
- John A. Burns School of Medicine-UH-Manoa
- Ka'u Rural Health Community Association Inc
- Kalihi Palama Health Center
- Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services
- Lāna'i Community Health Center
- Na Pu'uwai NHHCS (Molokai and Lanai)
- Papa Ola Lokahi
- Puna Kamali'i Flowers/
Employment Network Hawaii
- Responsive Caregivers of Hawai'i
- Save Medicaid Hawaii
- University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
- Wahiawa Health
- Waikiki Health
- Waimanalo Health Center
- West Hawaii Community Health Center

Questions? Please contact the Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition:
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