



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
and Committee on Human Services
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by

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SB 3010 – RELATING TO DENTAL HEALTH

Chairs Baker and Green, Vice Chairs Tokuda and Chang, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and the Senate Committee on Human Services, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3010 relating to dental health.

This bill supports the sustainability of the Hawai'i virtual dental home pilot projects by ensuring providers who use certain telehealth procedures and apply caries arresting medications are reimbursed for doing so.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (SONDH) recognizes that increasing access to oral health services for underserved and Medicaid populations is a priority for action. Recognizing this need, the SONDH applied and received a competitive DHHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant, "Utilization of the Expanded Function Dental Hygienist (EFDH) to Improve Oral Health Outcomes for Children 0-5 Years of Age in Hawai'i", from 2017 to 2022. The project goal is to increase the dental workforce serving children 0-5 years of age in underserved areas by developing a post-baccalaureate EFDH certificate program for licensed dental hygienists, and to increase the bachelor's prepared student's knowledge and comfort in providing pediatric dental hygiene services to the community. However, this effort alone is not sufficient to meet state needs. Telehealth via the University of the Pacific's School of Dentistry project allows access to oral health and ensures that dental hygiene can practice in such settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 3010.