

# Serving the Needs of Our Community



# Highlights:



**Mission:**  
**Improve Oral Health  
in Hawaii**

In addition to providing grants for deserving nonprofit organizations, the HDS Foundation continued to advance its own initiatives to improve oral health in Hawaii, focusing on the needs of keiki and kupuna through its three signature programs: **Dentist by One, Seal Away Decay, and Kupuna Smiles.**



**\$1.6 million to 14 Nonprofit  
Organizations**

The HDS Foundation gave over \$1.6 million in grants to 14 nonprofit organizations throughout the state to support programs that promote oral health education, prevent oral disease, promote workforce development, and increase access to dental care for underserved populations.



**\$10,629 in Smile Fund Grants**

In addition to its biannual grants, the HDS Foundation gave nonprofit organizations \$10,629 in Smile Fund grants. Smile Fund grants support programs and projects under \$5,000 that take an innovative and collaborative approach to promote oral health.



**Distributed More Than 36,600 SmileKits**

The HDS Foundation donated 36,602 SmileKits, consisting of a toothbrush, toothpaste, and dental floss, to more than 55 organizations conducting oral health education in the community.



**Distributed 7,450 Dentist By One Packets**

As a part of our effort to promote oral health amongst keiki, the HDS Foundation donated 7,450 Dentist By One packets to hospitals statewide. The packets include an infant toothbrush and information for new parents upon discharge from the hospital. The packets also encourage parents to take their baby to a dentist by their first birthday.



**Seal Away  
Decay**

**Provided Dental Screenings for over  
1,700 Second and Third Graders**

In partnership with Hawaii Keiki, the Seal Away Decay program provided no-cost dental screenings to 1,741 second and third graders in 64 different schools on Oahu and Maui. Of those who were screened, 61% received sealants.



**Kupuna  
Smiles**

**Trained 257 Caregivers on Oral Hygiene  
Practices for Senior Citizens**

Through the Kupuna Smiles program, the HDS Foundation facilitated hands-on oral health training led by dental hygienists for 257 nurses and caregivers at long term care facilities. Caregivers learned how to use oral health tools to make brushing easier, about the connection between oral health and whole-body health, and more.



**Awarded \$110,000 in Scholarships**

Eight dental students and ten dental hygiene students received scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year. Since the scholarship program was established in 2018, a total of \$315,000 in scholarships has been awarded to 28 Hawaii students.



**Actively Involved in the  
Hawaii Oral Health Coalition**

The HDS Foundation team has been actively involved in the Hawaii Oral Health Coalition, a statewide coalition of oral health stakeholders who work collaboratively to improve oral health in Hawaii. The coalition was influential in restoring Medicaid dental benefits for adults effective January 2023.



# Grant Highlights:

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## **American Heart Association - \$268,426**

The HDS Foundation supported "A Lifetime of Healthy Smiles Starts with Healthy Hearts," a pilot program in partnership with the American Heart Association to involve oral health clinicians in the prevention and early detection of heart disease. Dental office staff received training in hypertension awareness and learned how to properly screen and monitor the blood pressure of their patients.

## **Aloha Medical Mission - \$210,000**

Aloha Medical Mission (AMM) offers kupuna in rural areas of Hawai'i Island dental care, brings fluoride treatment and sealants to students, and provides free dental services at their Honolulu clinic. AMM will utilize the HDS Foundation's funding to enhance and expand their outreach in underserved communities.

## **Community Clinic of Maui - \$92,192**

The Community Clinic of Maui stepped in to provide dental care to the Lahaina community displaced by the wildfires. The HDS Foundation's funding will help the Community Clinic of Maui purchase new equipment to reduce wait time and costs for their patients.

## **Dental Lifeline Network - \$20,000**

The Dental Lifeline Network (DLN) provides no-cost comprehensive dental care to elderly, disabled, or medically fragile adults via a team of volunteer dentists. With the HDS Foundation's grant, DLN will continue to offer dental treatment to individuals who could not afford to see a dentist elsewhere.

## **Nest for Families - \$30,000**

Nest for Families regularly conducts outreach through text messaging to new parents, encouraging them to bring their baby to the dentist before age one. The HDS Foundation's grant supports Nest for Families in promoting oral health education amongst families in underserved communities.

## **Hawai'i Island Community Health Center - \$168,766**

Hawai'i Island Community Health Center (HICHC) works to improve the oral health of uninsured and underinsured children and adults on Hawai'i Island. The HDS Foundation's support will enable HICHC to expand the dental care it provides by installing new technology for dental implants and dental sterilization. It will also support HICHC's efforts to increase awareness of the recent restoration of adult Medicaid dental benefits.

## **Hui No Ke Ola Pono - \$22,072**

Hui No Ke Ola Pono is a Native Hawaiian Health Care System that works to provide culturally competent healthcare to Native Hawaiian populations in Maui. The HDS Foundation's grant will help furnish equipment and supplies for a new mobile dental van to offer dental services to Native Hawaiian populations on West Maui and Lahaina residents displaced by the wildfires.

## **Hawai'i Public Health Institute - \$65,510**

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute is dedicated to advancing public health statewide, and specifically focuses on oral health through the work of its Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition (HOHC). The HDS Foundation's grant will support the HOHC in developing its five-year strategic plan to coordinate and strengthen oral health advocacy in Hawai'i.

## **Kahuku Medical Center - \$83,217**

Kahuku Medical Center (KMC) offers dental care to the Ko'olauloa area, which suffers from long wait times for dental care. The HDS Foundation's financial support will allow KMC to expand and upgrade their facilities. By expanding, KMC will be able to see more patients and increase access to dental care in the Ko'olauloa area.

# Grant Highlights:

## **Molokai Community Health Center - \$10,000**

Molokai Community Health Center (MCHC) provides accessible dental services to the rural underserved community in Molokai. The HDS Foundation's grant will help MCHC to expand its dental program via updated infrastructure, enabling them to treat more patients and paving the way for improved comprehensive long-term care for Molokai residents.

## **Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center - \$436,374**

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) works as a safety-net provider for underserved populations in the Leeward side of Oahu. With the HDS Foundation's support, WCCHC will bring a mobile dental van to children at schools in rural communities, providing them with crucial preventive care.

## **University of Hawai'i Foundation - Maui College - \$100,000**

The University of Hawai'i's Maui College (UHMC) Oral Health Center will use the grant to strengthen their community outreach and oral health education. The UHMC Oral Health Center will provide educational services to Hawai'i Island targeted at addressing their shortage of dental hygienists. It will also create a faculty-based practice at the UHMC dental clinic site to provide advanced care for underserved communities.

## **University of Hawai'i Foundation - Hawai'i Keiki - \$121,121**

The University of Hawai'i currently operates the Hawai'i Keiki (HK) - HDS Sealant Program, under which it provides no-cost oral assessments and dental sealants to students in high need public schools. The HDS Foundation's grant will support the program into its fourth and fifth years, enabling it to reach over 80 public schools statewide. HK addresses the need for preventive oral care amongst children in Hawai'i, helping keiki avoid painful dental issues and promoting early intervention.

# Smile Fund:

## **Hamakua-Kohala Health - \$5,000**

Hamakua-Kohala Health (HKH) provides healthcare to underserved populations in Hamakua, Waimea, and Kohala on Hawaii Island. With the help of the HDS Foundation, HKH will work to address oral health disparities amongst underserved adults in these areas. HKH will offer dental care to adults covered by Medicaid and establish oral health education programs and community outreach.

## **Hawai'i Island Community Health Center - \$950**

The HDS Foundation's grant will support Hawai'i Island Community Health Center's (HICHC) new oral health education program modeled off HDS's own Kupuna Smiles Initiative. HICHC will partner with the Hawai'i State Department of Health to train nursing staff in Kalaupapa on geriatric oral health for patients with Hansen's Disease.

## **Molokai Community Health Center - \$4,679**

Molokai Community Health Center (MCHC) provides dental care to the low-income, uninsured and underinsured population of Molokai. The HDS Foundation's funding will assist MCHC with replacing outdated equipment so they can continue meeting the needs of the underserved in Molokai.