

Helping Hawaii to Live Well, Smile More.



MISSION: To Improve Oral Health in Hawaii

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 care in Hawaii, focusing on the needs of keiki and kupuna through its three signature programs: **Dentist by One**, **Seal Away Decay**, and **Kupuna Smiles**.



\$2.3 million in Grants to 14 Nonprofit Organizations

The HDS Foundation gave over \$2.3 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.



\$15,849 in Smile Fund Grants

In addition to its biannual grants, the HDS Foundation gave six nonprofit organizations a total of \$15,849 in Smile Fund grants. The Smile Fund is intended to support small projects that take an innovative and collaborative approach to promote oral health. Requests are accepted at any time during the year for grants less than \$5,000.



Distributed More Than 32,000 SmileKits

The HDS Foundation donated 32,811 SmileKits, consisting of a toothbrush, toothpaste, and dental floss, to 53 organizations conducting oral health education in the community.



Dentist by One Distributed 5,630 Dentist By One Packets

As a part of our effort to promote oral health amongst keiki, the HDS Foundation donated 5,630 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 1,900 Second and Third Graders

In partnership with Hawaii Keiki, the Seal Away Decay program provided no-cost dental screenings to 1,910 second and third graders at 77 different schools on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii Island. Of those who were screened, 63% received sealants.



Kupuna Smiles Trained over 400 Nurses on Oral Hygiene Care for Senior Citizens

Through the Kupuna Smiles program, the HDS Foundation facilitated hands-on oral health training led by dental hygienists for 417 nurses and caregivers at long term care facilities on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii Island. 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 \$113,000 in Scholarships

Eight dental students and 11 dental hygiene students received scholarships for the 2024-2025 school year. Since the scholarship program was established in 2018, the HDS Foundation has distributed 64 scholarships totaling \$428,000 to Hawaii students as a part of our effort to strengthen Hawaii's dental workforce.



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. Our team also contributed to the Coalition's five-year strategic plan which will be finalized in early 2025.



Grant Highlights:

Aloha Medical Mission - \$210,000

Aloha Medical Mission (AMM) offers kupuna in rural areas of Hawaii Island dental care, brings fluoride treatment and sealants to students, and provides free dental services at their Honolulu clinic.

Dental Lifeline Network - \$20,000

Dental Lifeline Network (DLN) provides no-cost comprehensive dental care to Hawaii's elderly, disabled, or medically fragile adults via a team of volunteer dentists and laboratories. This grant enables DLN to continue to offer dental treatment to individuals who could not afford to see a dentist elsewhere.

Hamakua-Kohala Health - \$71,284

Hamakua-Kohala Health (HKH) provides healthcare to underserved populations in Hamakua, Waimea, and Kohala on Hawaii Island. This grant will help HKH increase access to dental care amongst underserved adults with new equipment and supplies.

Hui No Ke Ola Pono - \$190,000

Hui No Ke Ola Pono (HNKOP) is a Native Hawaiian Health Care System that works to provide culturally competent healthcare to Native Hawaiian populations in Maui. The grant will help HNKOP renovate and expand their dental clinic to provide a safer and more welcoming environment for their patients and staff.

Kahuku Medical Center - \$78,763

Kahuku Medical Center (KMC) is a rural health clinic that offers dental care to populations in the Ko'olauloa and North Shore areas. This grant will help KMC to expand their facilities and increase access to dental care for local residents.

Kalihi-Palama Health Center - \$22,515

Kalihi-Palama Health Center (KPHC) works to provide accessible and affordable dental care to vulnerable populations, and to promote preventative measures in oral health. This grant supports KPHC's efforts to integrate preventive oral health care with their pediatric patients and families.

Kapiolani Community College - \$154,272

Kapiolani Community College will use this grant to enhance their Dental Assisting program by purchasing new equipment and tools aligned with industry standards. Both students and employers stand to benefit from this investment in Hawaii's Dental Assisting workforce.

Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services - \$165,161

Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services provides culturally competent affordable dental services to the underserved population in Kalihi. This grant supports the development of specialty dental services like root canals, endodontic surgeries, and dental implants for their patients, and it will also attract dental residents to their program, strengthening the dental workforce in the community.

Lanai Community Health Center - \$45,847

Lanai Community Health Center (LCHC) provides dental services for the geographically isolated community of Lanai, with a focus on underserved individuals. With this support, LCHC will integrate advanced dental treatment technology into their practice, improving patient recovery time and discomfort levels.

The Queen's Medical Center - \$26,555

The Queen's Medical Center (QMC) operates a dental clinic that provides full-service dental care, with a focus on patients who have difficulties accessing other dental services due to fragile health, disability, or complex oral-facial diseases. The QMC-Dental Clinic will purchase equipment that will provide faster and more comfortable oral scanning, especially for special needs or head and neck cancer patients.

University of Hawaii Foundation - Hawaii Keiki - \$124,773

The University of Hawaii currently operates the Hawaii Keiki – HDS Sealant Program, under which it provides no-cost oral assessments and dental sealants to students in high need public schools. This grant will support the program into its fifth year, addressing the need for preventive oral care amongst children in Hawaii and helping keiki avoid painful dental issues and promoting early intervention.

Grant Highlights:

University of Hawaii - Loan Repayment Funds - \$250,000

The HDS Foundation is investing in Hawaii's dental workforce by providing matching funds for Loan Repayment Programs administered by the University of Hawaii - Hawaii/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center. These funds are meant to encourage dental professionals to work in Hawaii, and to serve low-income populations.

University of Hawaii Foundation - Maui College - \$800,000

The HDS Foundation recognizes the need for a greater dental hygienist workforce in Hawaii. To support this workforce, the HDS Foundation has committed additional funding to the University of Hawaii Foundation's Hawaii Dental Service Endowed Scholarship fund, which provides scholarships to University of Hawaii dental hygiene students.

University of Hawaii Maui College - \$150,000

The University of Hawaii Maui College (UHMC) plays a critical role in training future oral health professionals in Hawaii. With this grant, UHMC will expand their dental hygiene program to Hawaii Island, resume their dental assisting program, and provide crucial oral health services to both the Maui and Hawaii Island communities.

Smile Fund:

Executive Office on Early Learning - \$2,700

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) works to improve early childhood development and learning for young children and their families statewide. The EOEL will promote preventive dental checkups and oral hygiene amongst underserved populations through distributing multilingual educational materials.

Hawaii Public Health Institute - Oral Care Trainings - \$4,360

The Hawaii Public Health Institute is dedicated to advancing public health statewide and specifically focuses on oral health through the work of its Hawaii Oral Health Coalition (HOHC). The HOHC will work with the Department of Health Hospital and Community Dental Services Branch to offer community training on how to care for the oral health of individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Kapiolani Community College - \$1,099

Kapiolani Community College will acquire intraoral cameras to familiarize students with advanced diagnostic tools and better prepare them for the evolving demands of dental practices across the island of Oahu.

Read to Me International - \$5,000

Through read-aloud events and outreach, Read to Me International promotes literacy amongst Hawaii's keiki and will provide oral health education to families through oral health-themed events.

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center - \$1,235

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) provides wide-reaching oral health education and preventative dental services to the Waianae Coast community. WCCHC will promote oral health to students and parents through school-based education sessions. Parent sessions will include the importance of oral health and what oral health services are available for their children.

University of Hawaii Foundation - \$1,455

As a part of our investment in dental education, the University of Hawaii Foundation received funds to attend the Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress to present findings from the University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine's efforts to integrate oral health topics into medical school curriculum.