

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Date:** March 26, 2020**Contact:** Michael Orozco
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Strategic Communication Solutions
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for Participating Dentists**

As a result of precautionary measures taken to manage the spread of COVID-19, many dentists are postponing non-emergency appointments to protect their patients and the community.

Unfortunately, dentists are also feeling the financial pinch of this decision. To help dentists weather this challenging period, Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) has launched a new program to provide an option for some financial support to its network of participating dentists. More than 95% of Hawaii's licensed, practicing dentists have contracts with HDS.

"Everyone is being financially impacted by the COVID-19 mitigation safeguards that are in place and we're trying to remain one step ahead," said Mark Yamakawa, HDS president and chief executive officer. "We're developing creative ways to anticipate the needs of the community during this unprecedented pandemic. This new program is a way to help dentists across our state be more financially resilient."

Advance Payment Program Details

Dentists typically submit claims for procedures performed on patients to HDS for payment on a weekly basis. With this new program, HDS is offering to pay in-network providers and dental practices up to three times the amount of their average weekly claims payments as a lump sum in advance. Dentists would repay the amount that has been advanced to them in 5% increments without interest. These increments would be deducted from future claims payments, beginning in July 2020. Dentists have until November 2020 to repay the advance. For more information, dentists should visit HawaiiDentalService.com/AdvancePaymentProgram.

Application Deadline

Practices may apply for the program by emailing their name, title, business name, and phone number to HDS Professional Relations at HDSProfessionalRelations@HawaiiDentalService.com by April 10, 2020.

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The logo for Delta Dental, featuring a green triangle with a white outline and the text "DELTA DENTAL" in white capital letters to its right.The logo for Hawaii Dental Service (HDS), featuring the letters "HDS" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font, with "Hawaii Dental Service" in a smaller, black sans-serif font directly below it.

NEWS RELEASE

About Hawaii Dental Service

Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) is the leading dental benefits provider in the state, serving nearly one million residents throughout Hawaii, Guam, and Saipan. It has the largest network of dentists, with more than 95 percent of Hawaii's licensed, practicing dentists participating with HDS.

As a nonprofit founded in Hawaii in 1962, HDS is committed to making quality oral health care affordable and accessible. Employers who offer HDS dental plans to their employees represent Hawaii's diverse industries, companies, unions, associations, and nonprofit organizations. HDS also offers dental plans for individuals and families.

HDS has been a part of Delta Dental, the nation's largest and most experienced dental insurance benefits provider, since 1966. This affiliation gives members access to a nationwide network of participating dentists.

For more information, please visit HawaiiDentalService.com.