

Creating a Lifetime of Healthy Smiles

HDS | *Foundation*
Hawaii Dental Service



Empowering the Community with Healthy Smiles

Aloha!

Oral health is the foundation of good health. This is especially important in Hawaii where health equity is a major challenge. Many in our islands face numerous barriers to quality oral health care. Some do not know where to begin to make a dental appointment. Others do not have insurance. Transportation can be another obstacle. And some simply cannot take time off from work to see a dentist.

Elevating Oral Health

Hawaii Dental Service and the HDS Foundation have been changing the landscape by promoting oral health education, preventing oral disease and improving access to dental care for Hawaii's underserved populations. The programs we develop and the services we support all move Hawaii toward better health. We invest in programs that change the lives of keiki through kupuna.

In 2020, the HDS Foundation provided significant transformational gifts to nonprofit partners across our islands to continue to provide oral health care to Hawaii residents in their own communities. Many of our partners are federally qualified community health centers with dental clinics that serve thousands of residents, regardless of their income and whether they have insurance. The HDS Foundation has been there to provide support, whether it's a grant for a new dental clinic, dental equipment and supplies, or for oral health education.

Responding to the Pandemic

Last year was especially challenging for everyone, and our nonprofit partners felt the effects of the pandemic more than others. Dental visits for their patients were suspended, except for emergency dental care. The HDS Foundation collaborated with these partners so that they could keep in touch with their patients. We also supported new partners and provided oral health kits, which included toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss to be distributed with meals and produce boxes delivered to seniors and other vulnerable groups.

More Reasons for Hawaii to Smile

The HDS Foundation looks forward to being a catalyst for positive change in the community. We're rising to the challenge before us and will continue to meet the most urgent needs of the community while ensuring that oral health remains a priority throughout the state. Our goal is to simply give the community more reasons to smile.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dr. Yamakawa".

Mark Yamakawa
President & CEO
Hawaii Dental Service



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Savage".

Mason Savage, DDS
Chair
HDS Foundation



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shere Saneishi-Kim".

Shere Saneishi-Kim
Director
HDS Foundation



Our Abiding Commitment to Healthy Smiles

The HDS Foundation believes everyone deserves a healthy smile. It doesn't matter where you live or what your income may be. The HDS Foundation is committed to improving oral health for all Hawaii residents.

Providing oral health education, preventing oral disease, and increasing access to dental care for Hawaii's underserved populations have been priorities of the HDS Foundation since it was established by Hawaii Dental Service in 1986.

Each year the HDS Foundation invests in innovative oral health initiatives, provides grants to nonprofit community organizations that promote oral health, and awards scholarships for the next generation of Hawaii's oral health professionals.

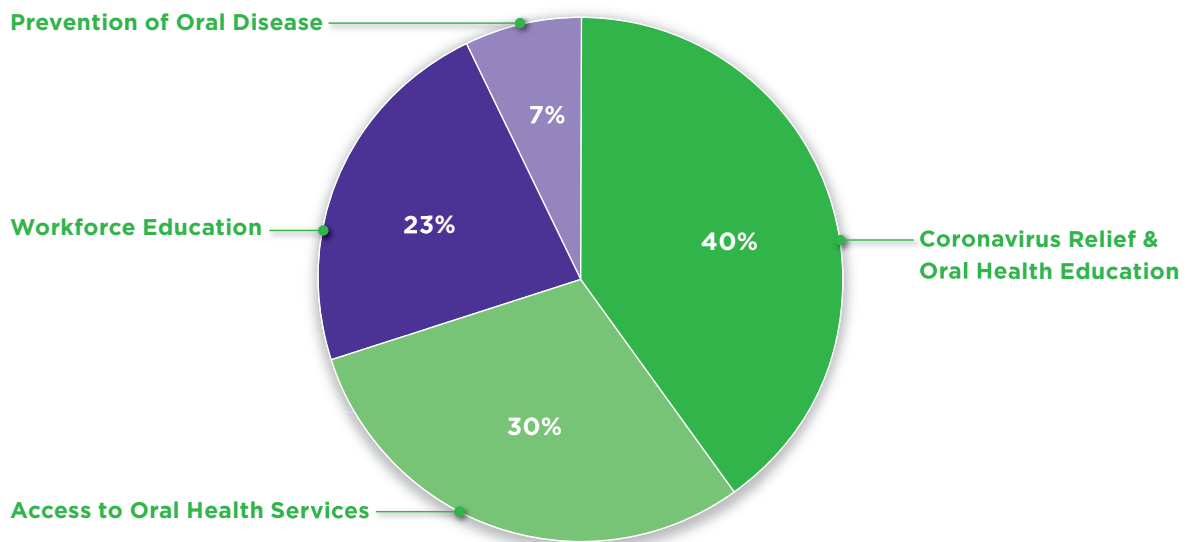
In 2020, Hawaii, like the rest of the world, was turned upside down by the pandemic. The visitor industry and many businesses came to an abrupt halt, creating economic uncertainty and anxiety in the community. Nonprofit organizations faced difficult challenges that threatened their ability to serve those who were the most vulnerable.

Fortunately, the HDS Foundation invested more than \$1.6 million in the oral health programs of local nonprofit organizations with a significant portion earmarked to provide relief during the pandemic.

Investments in the Community | \$1.6 Million

Direct Lives Affected | 16,000+

Programs Supported | 13



Our Oral Health Programs

Original oral health programs developed by the HDS Foundation

To ensure Hawaii's keiki build a solid foundation for life-long smiles, the HDS Foundation invests in several programs designed to improve the oral health of children and kupuna.

Dentist by One

Every keiki deserves a great start in life. Both the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommend that parents should take their child for a dental visit within six months of receiving their first tooth, and no later than their first birthday.

Based on HDS claims data, only about 10% of the children visit a dentist by age one. This results in children as young as three years old with cavities that could have been prevented.

HDS developed a comprehensive “Dentist by One” program to reach parents statewide. Reminding parents to take their child to the dentist by age one, HDS shares this message at health fairs, community health centers, and local companies. In 2021, HDS will expand outreach to pediatricians.





Seal Away Decay

Dental sealants are a proven way to prevent cavities in children. When applied on the chewing surfaces of their teeth, sealants serve as a protective barrier. They keep plaque and food out of the crevices of a children's molars, which are the most susceptible to decay.

The HDS Foundation, in partnership with the University of Hawai'i's Hawai'i Keiki program, created a pilot program called "Sealants in Schools," an oral health initiative to serve second-graders in underserved elementary schools on Oahu. This project serves as a model for community health centers and other organizations to implement this school-based program in more public schools throughout the state.



Kupuna Smiles

Making sure kūpuna receive quality oral health care is equally as important because poor oral health can affect their overall physical health. The HDS Foundation's newest initiative focuses on improving the oral health of older adults, who are more vulnerable to tooth decay because of gum disease, lack of proper nutrition, or from the side effects, such as dry mouth, that may result from certain medications.

The HDS Foundation developed this oral health training program for nurses and other healthcare professionals who provide care for seniors in long-term care facilities. Dental hygienists conduct the training and provide hands-on instructions. In 2021, these training sessions will be conducted virtually to reach more caregivers in our community.



Our Grants to Community Partners

Extending our reach by supporting local nonprofit organizations

Many organizations throughout the state share the mission of the HDS Foundation. By supporting community partners with grants, the HDS Foundation extends its reach to create many more healthy smiles across the Islands. In 2020, 12 nonprofit organizations were able to count on the HDS Foundation for initial or ongoing support.

Aloha Medical Mission | \$200,000

In June 2020, Aloha Medical Mission moved its dental clinic to its new facility at the Aloha United Way building on Vineyard Boulevard. The HDS Foundation provided \$200,000 to Aloha Medical Mission to continue to provide free basic dental services, including emergency care to the uninsured, underinsured, and those recently unemployed. Despite the pandemic and limited operating hours, Aloha Medical Mission was able to offer more than 260 dentist visits each month.

“The HDS Foundation allows us to fill a vitally important niche as the state’s only free dental clinic. We kept our doors open for emergency services at the start of the pandemic and by June 2020, we were back in full swing to provide free preventive and restorative dental care to more than 3,300 individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, and have no means of paying for care. We anticipate our dental services will be even more critical as our state struggles through a tough economic recovery period.”



Toni Muranaka
Executive Director
Aloha Medical Mission



(L to R)
Toni Muranaka, Executive Director, Aloha Medical Mission
Mendel Sato, DMD, Dental Director, Aloha Medical Mission
Mark Yamakawa, President and CEO, Hawaii Dental Service

Dental Lifeline Network – Hawaii DDS (Donated Dental Service) Program | \$20,000

Dental Lifeline Network operates the Hawaii DDS Program that helps vulnerable individuals access oral health care using volunteer dentists and free or discounted lab services. With a \$20,000 grant from the HDS Foundation, the Hawaii DDS Program provided \$187,000 worth of comprehensive pro bono dental care for nearly 80 seniors statewide as well as those who are medically fragile or with disabilities. This included care coordination, transportation to dentists, and dental fabrications – an average value of more than \$4,270 per patient!



Friends of Dental Hygiene | \$121,027

The administration of local anesthesia is an essential part of dental hygiene education and is mandated in Hawaii's dental hygiene statutes. The Friends of Dental Hygiene supports clinical learning in radiology and the administration of local anesthesia for undergraduates in the University of Hawaii-Manoa's Dental Hygiene Program. The organization used the \$121,027 HDS Foundation grant to purchase six manikins for radiology and 13 for anesthesia for the Dental Hygiene Program which is now well-positioned for hands-on, in-person learning.



Ko'olauloa Health Center | \$65,957

Ko'olauloa Health Center is located on Oahu's North Shore. With nearly 60 percent of the population's 24,000 residents living under the federal poverty level, dental care is not a high priority. Yet, the clinic's dental schedule is booked months in advance with many individuals on the waitlist. HDS Foundation's \$65,957 grant to upgrade the dental clinic's technology system allowed them to improve efficiency, ensure follow-up on patients, and introduce teledentistry in the future.

Lanai Community Health Center | \$70,000

The effects of isolation and lack of oral health programs are pronounced on Lanai. Just a little more than half of adults on Lanai have visited a dentist each year, and more than half have removed their permanent teeth. Referrals to Oahu or Maui for specialty care are challenging because these visits typically involve multiple trips or extended stays. Some patients choose to extract their teeth, which eventually results in a decline in dental function. A \$70,000 grant from the HDS Foundation is changing this - allowing Lanai Community Health Center to see more dental patients.



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Lāna'i is a unique community with some of the highest rates of dental need in the state. HDS Foundation grants have allowed LCHC to address many of the oral health issues - for example, awarding funds for equipment that provides the ability to prepare a tooth and, on the same day, make crowns right on island! This is an oral health game-changer for our residents and makes good oral health an easier choice.



Diana Shaw, PhD, MPH, MBA,
FACMPE
Executive Director
Lāna'i Community Health Center

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The Hawai'i Department of Health, Hospital & Community Dental Services Branch | \$22,060

The Hawai'i Department of Health's Hospital & Community Dental Services Branch provides comprehensive dental care to individuals at five dental clinics on Oahu. The \$22,060 HDS Foundation grant to replace aging or non-repairable essential equipment allowed for the continued operations of these clinics. With the HDS Foundation grant, those with severe mental health conditions or those with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are Medicaid beneficiaries continue to receive optimal oral health.

University of Hawai'i School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene and Hawai'i Keiki Program | \$87,954

The HDS Foundation worked collaboratively with the University of Hawai'i School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene to bring oral health care back into the schools. With funding of an additional \$87,954 to support the second year of Hawai'i Keiki - HDS Sealants in the School program, University of Hawaii dental hygienists were able to provide oral health education and dental sealants to second graders at Hawai'i Department of Education schools in rural and underserved communities. Access to oral health care allows these second-grade students to find a dental home.



University of Hawai'i Maui College / Dental Hygiene Program | \$100,000

When UH Maui College's dental hygiene clinic reopened in June 2020, after being temporarily closed for general services because of the pandemic, there was an increase in patients with dental tooth decay and severe periodontal disease. These oral health problems likely resulted from patients postponing preventive dental care visits. With an HDS Foundation grant of \$100,000, Maui College's dental hygiene clinic acquired dental equipment and personal protective equipment allowing them to welcome underserved patients who did not have traditional dental homes and who would not otherwise receive preventive care.



Many Maui residents do not have a traditional dental home and as a result, do not visit a dentist regularly. It's a great feeling to be able to break down barriers by inviting such patients to our no fee-for-service clinic and bringing dental care into schools.



Rosie Vierra, BS, RDH, MS
Associated Professor
Dental Hygiene Program Coordinator
University of Hawai'i Maui College



Statewide Coronavirus Relief

During the pandemic, the HDS Foundation stepped forward to support a collaborative group of organizations that delivered meals or groceries to kūpuna and other vulnerable families statewide, contributing a total of \$500,000. Since many dental offices were closed except to offer emergency dental care, the HDS Foundation arranged for oral health kits to be delivered with the meals and produce boxes as a reminder to make oral health a priority.

Hawai'i Meals on Wheels / Show Aloha Challenge Foundation | \$145,000

A \$145,000 HDS Foundation grant helped kūpuna as well as restaurants during the pandemic. Seniors on Kauai, Maui, Lanai, Molokai, and Hawaii Island, who were unable to venture out of their home for groceries, received restaurant-prepared hot meals delivered to their home along with oral health kits. This also helped participating restaurants stay in business during the shutdowns.



Hui No Ke Ola Pono | \$65,000

Thanks to a \$65,000 grant from the HDS Foundation, Hui No Ke Ola Pono, a Native Hawaii Health Care System on Maui, distributed produce boxes with oral health kits to Native Hawaiian families throughout the Valley Island.



Our Grants to Community Partners Continued

Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services | \$140,000

During the pandemic, non-emergency dental office visits were temporarily suspended, but with a \$140,000 grant from the HDS Foundation, Kōkua Kalihi Valley's dental team rapidly redirected their energies to connect with kūpuna dental patients and deliver food, oral health kits, face masks, and cleaning supplies to keep them healthy at home.



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We serve one of the largest low-income immigrant populations in Honolulu. Our patients could not come to us during the pandemic, so we went to them. We rapidly reinvented ourselves and delivered food and other necessities to our patients in the Kalihi Valley area and provided valuable information on COVID-19 protocols as well as oral health basics. Over the years, we've earned the trust of our patients and we were able to help them at a very challenging time.

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Dr. Jason Hiramoto
*Dental Director
Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive
Family Services*

St. Francis Healthcare System / Show Aloha Challenge | \$150,000

With a \$150,000 grant from the HDS Foundation, St. Francis Healthcare System was able to serve homebound kūpuna by providing restaurant-prepared, home-delivered meals to Oahu's older adults who did not qualify for other government-sponsored meal delivery programs. It was a win-win for everyone. For many kūpuna, the lunches were their first and only meal of the day, and restaurants on the brink of closing were able to retain their employees.



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Living alone as a senior during a pandemic is a frightening experience. With the HDS Foundation's generous support, we were able to bring comfort and encouragement, and let seniors know they were not forgotten. Some told us the meal we delivered to their home was their only meal of the day. Others mentioned that we were the only person they saw that day. As a healthcare ministry, we are more motivated than ever to provide resources and support for seniors to improve their quality of life.

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Jerry Correa
*Chief Executive Officer
St. Francis Healthcare System*



Our Scholarships

Investing in Hawaii's Future Dental Professionals

The HDS Foundation established the Hawaii Dental Service Community Scholarship Program in 2018 with a \$1 million endowment to support local students pursuing a profession in dentistry or dental hygiene. In 2019 & 2020, the Foundation added another \$1 million to the endowment for scholarships, and the Hawaii Community Foundation, which administers the scholarship program, awarded a total of \$60,000 in scholarships.

\$5,000 | Dental Hygiene Scholarships



Starlyne Abut
*University of Hawai'i
Maui College*



Britnay Jaralba
*University of Hawai'i
Mānoa*



Krystin Kubo
*University of Hawai'i
Mānoa*



Kiana Marie Soliven
*University of Hawai'i
Mānoa*

\$10,000 | Dental Scholarships



Elsa Lin
*University of
Washington*



Sophia Oak
*ATSU Arizona School
of Dentistry and
Oral Health*



Layke Yamauchi
*University of
Washington*



Melissa Yee
*University of
the Pacific*



MISSION

To Improve Oral Health in Hawaii

Hawaii Dental Service Foundation
900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1900
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3705
Tel: (808) 529-9209

www.HDSFoundation.gives