



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HDS Foundation Names Dr. Gavin Uchida Program Administrator

The HDS Foundation, the charitable foundation established by Hawaii Dental Service, Hawaii's leading dental benefits provider, has named Gavin Uchida, DDS, program administrator. He reports to Shere Saneishi-Kim, director of the HDS Foundation.

Over the past decade, the HDS Foundation has invested nearly \$7 million in grants to nonprofit organizations throughout the state to improve oral health. In 2018, the HDS Foundation distributed a record \$1.4 million in grants to 13 local nonprofit organizations in support of oral health programs and projects.

Dr. Uchida is the founder and a pediatric dentist at Blue Whale Children's Dentistry of Hawaii. He previously served as the dental director for the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) and will now serve as the HDS Foundation's liaison with the DOH and other statewide oral health initiatives. In addition, he will be responsible for proactively identifying nonprofit organizations to execute programs and projects that promote oral health education, oral disease prevention, and increase access to dental care for underserved populations which are in alignment with the HDS Foundation's objectives.

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“Dr. Uchida’s perspectives as a practicing dentist who is also in touch with the oral health needs of the community takes the HDS Foundation to a new, exciting level to ensure our investments have an even greater impact in the community,” said Saneishi-Kim. “His clinical insight and knowledge are valuable in developing preventive oral health programs for Hawaii’s children and adults.”

Dr. Uchida is certified by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and has been practicing on Oahu and Hawaii Island since 2005. He is a graduate of St. Louis School, earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington and doctorate from the University of California-San Francisco, and completed his residency in pediatric dentistry from the University of Texas-San Antonio. He also earned an MBA from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

The East Honolulu resident is a board member of Hawaii Dental Lifeline Network, a statewide non-profit focused on providing dental care to medically compromised adults. He is also on the medical staff of Kaiser Medical Center and Shriners Hospital for Children in Honolulu. He regularly volunteers on humanitarian dental missions to rural locations in Central America, the Caribbean, Polynesia, and Southeast Asia.

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About the HDS Foundation

The HDS Foundation was established in 1986 by Hawaii Dental Service to improve the oral health of Hawaii’s communities. Grants are distributed to local non-profit organizations for programs and projects that provide oral health education, prevent oral disease, and increase access to dental care for underserved populations.

For more information, visit HDSFoundation.gives.