

“We’re glad to be partnering with Kahuku Medical Center to meet the oral health needs of those in the area, especially Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders,” said Mark Yamakawa, HDS president and CEO. “The expanded dental clinic will help to address some of the health disparities. By tackling these issues, we hope to have a positive impact on the lives we touch.”

A survey conducted by Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian healthcare system, revealed that about a third of Ko’olauloa residents in a sample group indicated they had not seen a dentist within the past two years.

Hawaii Dental Service Foundation awards grants twice a year to nonprofit programs that promote oral health education, prevention of oral disease and access to dental care for underserved populations. The next deadline to submit grant proposals for consideration in 2022 is December 15, 2021. For more information, visit HDSFoundation.gives.

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About the Hawaii Dental Service Foundation

The Hawaii Dental Service Foundation was established in 1986 by Hawaii Dental Service to improve oral health in Hawaii. The Foundation’s oral health initiatives include programs such as Seal Away Decay, Dentist by One, and Kupuna Smiles. In 2018, the Foundation established the Hawaii Dental Service Community Scholarship Program to support Hawaii students pursuing a career in dentistry or dental hygiene. The Foundation also gives grants 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.

Photo Caption

From left: Shere Saneishi-Kim, HDS Foundation Director; Shaheen Hadjimaleki, Kahuku Medical Center Dental Clinic Manager; Mark Yamakawa, HDS President and CEO; Markee Estioko, Kahuku Medical Center Dental Hygienist; Alan MacPhee, Kahuku Medical Center CEO; Dr. Tanya Karnavy, Kahuku Medical Center Pediatric Dentist; Matt Mamizuka, Kahuku Medical Center Chief Operating Officer; and Dr. Gavin Uchida, HDS Foundation Program Administrator.