

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Hawaii Dental Service Gives \$340,000 to the Hawaii Academy of Science
to Support the Annual Hawaii State Science & Engineering Fair**

Honolulu, Hawai‘i – Hawaii Dental Service, the state’s leading dental benefits provider, has made a multi-year, \$340,000 pledge to the Hawaii Academy of Science to support the nonprofit organization’s Hawaii State Science & Engineering Fair and to create a new oral health science project award.



The HDS donation comes at a perfect time. The 2022 Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair begins this Saturday, March 5, and continues on the weekends throughout the month of March through Sunday, March 27. The virtual event is expected to have more than 250 participants.

“HDS believes creating a better future starts with investing in the education of Hawaii’s youth,” said Dr. Diane Paloma, HDS president and CEO. “Participating in the science fair gives private, public, charter and home school students an opportunity to

explore science outside of the classroom. We hope the new HDS oral health science project award will encourage more Hawaii students to pursue careers in oral health.”

The annual science fair began in 1958 and provides opportunities for students across the state to conduct scientific research, prepare a display board, and defend their work. Students compete at the school level and then advance to district science fairs before going to the State Science Fair. The best projects then advance to the International Science & Engineering Fair on the mainland.

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“Without this generous HDS gift, we would be struggling to raise enough money to continue another year,” said Wayne Kamitaki, chair of the Hawaii Academy of Science board of directors. “This gift has totally changed our mindset. I don’t think we can fully express how significant this gift is for Hawaii’s students and our organization going forward.”

Kamitaki has seen the positive results of students participating in the fair, beyond learning about science. “The science fair teaches our students to think critically, how to conduct scientific research, and how to visually and verbally communicate with different audiences,” Kamitaki said. “Whatever career they pursue, whether or not in science, they have developed the confidence and the critical thinking skill set that will serve them well.”

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Photo caption:

Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) recently presented a check for \$200,000 to the Hawaii Academy of Science to support the annual Hawaii Science and Engineering Fair. The check was part of HDS’s multi-year, \$340,000 pledge. From left, Mark Yamakawa, retired HDS president and CEO; Sharlene Tsuda, Hawaii Academy of Science board member; and Dr. Diane Paloma, HDS president and CEO.

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.