

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Hawaii Dental Service President and CEO Mark Yamakawa to Retire This Year**

Honolulu, Hawaii — Mark Yamakawa, who has served as president and CEO of Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) since November 2014, has announced he is retiring this year and has agreed to stay on until a new president is on board.

An executive search is now underway to identify a successor to ensure a smooth leadership transition. A successor is tentatively expected to be on board by December.

“Mark has done a phenomenal job of leading Hawaii Dental Service to improve access to oral health care in Hawaii,” said Suzy Hollinger, chairperson of the Hawaii Dental Service board of directors. “Over the past seven years, Mark has worked collaboratively with dentists, employer groups, nonprofit organizations, and others in communities across our state to ensure oral health is a priority. He leaves HDS in excellent shape for a new leader to continue to take the company forward.”

Under Yamakawa’s leadership, HDS formed strategic partnerships with medical plan partners to provide dental benefits to Supplemental Medicaid and Medicare Advantage beneficiaries. The HDS Foundation also created a scholarship program for Hawaii students pursuing careers in dentistry or dental hygiene, expanded its community outreach programs, and increased charitable giving to support oral health education and access to dental care.

“My time with HDS has been a great capstone of my career in healthcare,” Yamakawa said. “Healthcare, and in particular, oral health care, is constantly evolving, and HDS has been able to keep pace with these changes to meet the oral health needs of Hawaii residents, especially the most vulnerable in our state.”

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#### **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.

The logo for Delta Dental, featuring a white triangle icon to the left of the text "DELTA DENTAL" in white capital letters on a green rectangular background.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

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 [www.HawaiiDentalService.com](http://www.HawaiiDentalService.com).