

NEWS RELEASE

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Kahuku Medical Center to Expand and Upgrade its Dental Clinic with a \$97,583 Hawaii Dental Service Foundation Grant

Kahuku — Kahuku Medical Center, the only hospital in the Koʻolauloa area of Oahu, which serves residents from Waimea Bay to Kaʻaʻawa, will be able to expand and upgrade its dental clinic, thanks to a \$97,583 grant from the Hawaii Dental Service Foundation.

In October 2020, the hospital opened the existing dental clinic — the first dental clinic since the hospital opened more than 90 years ago — to meet the need for oral health care in the area. However, the demand for service quickly outgrew the size and capacity of the dental clinic.

"The Hawaii Dental Service Foundation's generous grant comes at just the right time," said Alan MacPhee, president of Kahuku Medical Center. "Our dental clinic will move into the larger space once occupied by our medical clinic which is relocating to a new wing this summer."

According to Shaheen Hadjimaleki, dental clinic manager, the grant will allow the Kahuku Medical Center dental clinic to:

- Acquire an additional X-ray system to save time for dentists and reduce PPE use;
- Purchase state-of-the-art dental equipment for endodontic services to avoid referrals to more costly providers and the need for multiple visits, which may be inconvenient for patients who have challenges with transportation or taking time off from work;
- Construct a new sterilization room; and
- Accommodate patients with brand new, high-tech dental chairs which will replace three aging orthodontic chairs that were previously donated.

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"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 Koʻolauloa 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.