

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hawaii Dental Service Reappoints Two Executives to New Roles

Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) recently appointed two of its executives to new roles to meet the changing needs of the state's leading dental benefits provider. Minna Lehti, who was named chief administrative officer in January 2019, was appointed chief operations officer; and Thomas Delaney, who has served as chief operations officer since late 2017, has been named chief information officer. Both executives report to Mark Yamakawa, HDS president and chief executive officer.

Minna Lehti

In her new role, Lehti will oversee customer service, claims processing and quality assurance, provider relations, government programs, and data analytics. Lehti joined HDS in 2009 as director of compliance, responsible for developing, implementing and managing company-wide regulatory compliance programs. She ensured HDS was in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, rules, policies and procedures.

Prior to joining HDS, she had been with Bank of Hawaii for eight years, serving as vice president and business manager; vice president and audit consultant; and vice president and sales and service compliance manager.

Lehti, a Kailua resident, received her bachelor's degree in international business and an MBA in finance, both from Hawaii Pacific University, and is a Certified Compliance & Ethics Professional (CCEP), Certified in Healthcare Privacy Compliance (CHPC) and Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC).

She currently serves as a board director for Kids Hurt Too Hawaii, ARMA International, Hawaii Chapter, and Hawaii Client Services, and as a board governor with the Institute of Internal Auditors, Hawaii Chapter. She is also a member of the Association of Healthcare Internal Auditors, Health Care Compliance Association, and Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Thomas Delaney

Delaney, who has been with HDS for more than 30 years, will focus on a major systems development project, while continuing to oversee the information systems department.

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Prior to his appointment as chief operations officer, he had been director of information systems since 2004. He started at HDS as a database analyst in 1985 and was named manager of systems development in 1990. He served as the technical architect responsible for designing HDS's claims administration system. Under his leadership, HDS was one of the first Delta Dental plans in the nation to provide real-time information for online claims submitted by dentists.

Delaney, a Kakaako resident, received a Bachelor of Science in business administration with an emphasis in quantitative methods from California State University-Long Beach.

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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.

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.