

# Dental Hygienist

Dental hygienists work with dentists to screen and clean patients' teeth. They also help educate patients about the importance of preventive care for a healthy smile.

## JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

- Screen and clean teeth and gums
- Perform X-rays and dental molds
- Apply fluoride treatments and sealants
- Provide care for gum disease
- Educate on flossing and brushing

## SKILLS NEEDED

- Good communication
- Attention to detail
- Fine motor skills
- Compassion

## PLAN YOUR CAREER PATH

### GET A DEGREE

Dental hygienists must earn a college degree in Dental Hygiene. This can be either a 2-year or a 4-year degree at:

- University of Hawaii Maui College, 2-year associate's degree
- University of Hawaii at Manoa, 4-year bachelor's degree
- Some mainland colleges also offer these degrees

### GET LICENSED

You need to take an exam for a license from the State of Hawaii and complete continuing education classes each year.

### GET HIRED

68% of the respondents in an HDS Foundation survey said there is a need for dental hygienists in Hawaii. Job opportunities can be found online or by approaching dental offices.



## DENTAL HYGIENIST PERKS

- Pay range is \$40-50+ per hour, possibly higher on the neighbor islands
- Help others and contribute meaningfully to your community
- Flexible hours