

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH HAWAII STATE
LEGISLATURE 2011**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
ACT 191, SECTION 24, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2010**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MED-QUEST DIVISION
October 2011**

REPORT ON ACT 191, SECTION 24, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2010

Act 191, Section 24, SLH 2010, appropriated out of the emergency and budget reserve fund of the State of Hawaii for QUEST health care payments, the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the restoration of adult dental care formerly granted under program ID HMS 245 – QUEST health care payments.

Act 191 required the Department of Human Services (DHS) to report on:

- (1) The number of adults receiving these benefits;
- (2) The cost per person;
- (3) Total breakdown of administrative costs and other overhead costs; and
- (4) Statistics, if available, of how this dental program is reducing the number of emergency dental-related medical procedures

The funds have not been released, to date, therefore no expenditure report is available. Please see the attached testimony by Director of Finance Georgina Kawamura, at the Senate Human Services Committee Informational Briefing on October 25, 2010, regarding the decision to withhold release of the Act 191 funds because of the State's still fragile economy.

Adult non-emergency dental benefits were eliminated from the Medicaid program by DHS in 1996 as a cost-saving measure. In 2006, DHS launched the Prevent Adult Dental Decay (PADD) program to reinstate and expand preventive and restorative dental benefits eliminated in 1996 for needy adults. DHS restored non-emergency dental benefits for adults that exceeded the pre-1996 benefits, for example, by allowing dentures.

However, in August 2009, due to the global fiscal crisis and Hawaii's severe budget shortfall, DHS once again eliminated adult non-emergency dental benefits in Medicaid.

Fortunately, many adults who could no longer access dental services through Medicaid could still access dental services through an initiative launched by the Lingle-Aiona Administration.

In December 2003, DHS entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the University of Hawaii, Maui Community College (UH/MCC) to make their oral health services, provided through supervised student trainees at its Maui Oral Health Center and Mobile Care Van, available to family members eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF) to ensure the employability and self-sufficiency of TANF and TAONF adults. This service has continued to be provided.

In addition, in 2006, DHS clarified its procedures for better access to its dental benefits available to adults receiving TANF and TAONF. Adults who are participants in the State's First-To-Work (FTW) program are eligible to receive both an on-going work-related support service payment, and an exit one-time work-related support service payment to address dental services, not covered by Medicaid, that are needed to help the adult to retain, or maintain, employment, such as denture services needed to provide customer services. The on-going work-related support service payment has a maximum of \$450 per month, and the exit one-time work-related support services payment has a maximum amount of \$1,500. For both of these payments, the

Department ensures that the costs for services are reasonable and the services are related to the adult becoming employable.

Needy children continue receiving full dental coverage.