



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR

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LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
DIRECTOR  
Phone: (808) 586-4410  
Fax: (808) 586-4444

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RECEIVES \$230,000 GRANT TO  
STRENGTHEN ORAL DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM**

HONOLULU -- The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) Family Health Services Division (FHSD) recently received a State Oral Disease Prevention grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The aim of this grant program is to assist state health departments in improving the oral health of their state residents, in particular those children and adults who are most at risk for oral diseases such as tooth decay (cavities).

“With CDC support, the states receiving these awards will be better able to monitor their population’s oral health, identify priorities and target efforts, and expand activities aimed at preventing oral diseases among individuals, families, and communities,” stated Dr. William Bailey, DDS, MPH, Acting Director, CDC Division of Oral Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

Hawaii is one of three states to receive \$230,000 under the program’s entry-level component, “Basic Capacity for Collective Impact.” The grants are renewable for up to five years.

“The grant is an important step to help rebuild the department’s public dental health infrastructure,” said Health Director Loretta J. Fuddy. “Hawaii received a failing grade for children’s dental health in 2010 and 2011 from a national health policy review panel, meeting only one of eight benchmarks, and this assistance will aid ongoing efforts to turn that around.”

(more)

The funding is designed to improve basic state oral health services, including support for program leadership and additional staff, monitoring oral disease levels and risk factors for oral disease, developing strong partnerships, educating state residents on ways to prevent oral diseases, and developing and evaluating prevention programs.

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For more information regarding this news release contact:

Danette Wong Tomiyasu  
Family Health Services Division  
Phone: (808) 586-4122

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