

## **Resolution Submitted by the Board of Trustees on Dental Benefit Providers**

**Resolution #2018A-08:** Establishment of a Task Force on Dental Benefit Providers

**Background:**

Participating in a dental benefit company is a reality (be it economic or practice) for practicing dentists. Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) is the first and largest nonprofit dental service corporation in Hawaii, with more than 95% of all licensed, practicing dentists in Hawaii participating in HDS, creating the largest network of dentists in the state. However, it is not the only dental benefit provider (DBP) in the state. Dentists have the individual choice to participate in any one or a combination of DBP, to offer to their patients for dental care.

The concept of a DBP initially made complete sense to fill a need for dental care for the children of Hawaii and was embraced by the dental community. While participation in DBPs allows patients to seek much-needed care, for participating providers, it means navigating a myriad of administrative, procedural, policy, and communication challenges, especially as the DBP model evolves, and is compounded by uncontrollable market forces and economics.

Over the years, HDA dentists have expressed confusion and frustration over contract verbiage and changes, and lack of clarity, and have raised questions about transparency and processes, such as the auditing of participating providers.

The Board of Trustees therefore submits the following resolution.

**Whereas,** the HDA leadership recognizes the growing requests and concerns received from HDA membership.

**Whereas,** A majority of the HDA member dentists are participating providers with one or several DBPs.

**Whereas,** Dentists, as small business owners or employees, have no voice nor leverage to negotiate with DBPs.

THEREFORE, be it

**Resolved,** the HDA assemble and support a Task Force on Dental Benefit Providers, to research the policies and business practices of all dental benefit providers in Hawaii,

**Resolved,** the Task Force shall serve under the supervision of, and will report to, the HDA Board of Trustees.

**Resolved,** that the House of Delegates budget the sum of \$0 (income) and \$10,000 (expense) for the conduct of the Task Force activities for 2019.

**Recommendation of the HOD Resolutions Reference Task Force on Resolution #2018A-08:**

Resolution not received in time for review by the HOD Resolutions Reference Task Force.

**Action taken by the House:**