



**Statewide Oral Health Strategic Planning  
Kona Town Hall Highlights  
Friday, December 1, 2017**

*(Note: This summary is not a comprehensive discussion, a full report will be included in the strategic plan.)*

**Attendees (5):** Louisa Linden (DOH PHN), Courtney Dimaggio (DOH PHN), Karen Ho (SHPDA), Nancy Roberts (PHN WIC), Donna Altshul (WHCHC), Beverly Isman (ASTDO), Paul Strauss (Public Health Educator, DOH)



**Need for Revision to Provider Payments for Preventive Care**

Meeting participants expressed concern that the current insurance structures incentivize dentists to “drill and fill” cavities, rather than focusing on preventive care. Changing what and how dentists are paid would change this. Creation of an outcomes-based reimbursement system was mentioned.

**Water Fluoridation**

Public access to fluoridated water was also discussed. Hawaii’s artesian wells have naturally occurring fluoride.

**Promoting Public Education**

There is a general lack of understanding of the link between oral health and overall health, and the true

VALUE of oral health, even within the public health sector. Parental values surrounding oral health and dentistry can transfer to children. Primary care providers have a role in educating parents, caretakers, and pregnant mothers early about oral health. Community health workers at the Ka'u Rural Health Community Association Inc. are planning a project by the State Health Planning and Development Agency to improve the public's awareness and perceived value for oral health.

A positive impact of sugar-sweetened beverages on oral health was also discussed and supported at the Kona town hall meeting. WIC benefits don't allow recipients to purchase unhealthy sugary beverages.

Other agencies to partner with on Big Island include: Office on Aging, athletic groups, parks and recreation, UH, churches, and other cultural organizations.

**Post-meeting Evaluation Results**

	1 = Poor	2 = Below Average	3 = Average	4 = Above Average	5 = Excellent	NA
<b>Format/Structure</b>						
Overall Meeting	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(5)100%	(0)
Length of Meeting	(0)	(0)	(0) 3	(0)	(5)100%	(0)
<b>Amenities</b>						
Meeting Room	(0)	(0)	(1)20%	(1)20%	(3)60%	(0)
Catering	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(5)100%	(0)
<b>Meeting Sections</b>						
Hawaii State Oral Health Program Update	(0)	(0)	(0)	(1)20%	(4)80%	(0)
Group Discussion	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(5)100%	(0)
Planning & Prioritization	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(4)100%	(0)

**Comments and/or suggestions:**

- Great meeting; I would suggest more advanced marketing to get more people there.
- Mahalo
- Excellent session. Great Discussions & ideas. Mahalo for your support!