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HDA Dental Samaritan Headquarters

NATIONAL GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2009
Hawaii Dental Association Dental Samaritans bring free dental screenings and oral health education to West Oahu and Kauai elementary students

WEST OAHU, HI, February 4, 2009 – The Hawaii Dental Association (HDA) Dental Samaritans has once again teamed up with District 1 City Councilmember Todd K. Apo to improve oral health for children in West Oahu.

For the fifth year in a row, volunteer dentists and their staff will travel to West Oahu elementary schools, providing free dental screenings, oral health care lessons and distributing free toothbrushes, toothpaste and informational packets to nearly 900 students. Three dental teams will be dispersed, visiting Holomua Elementary and Ewa Beach Elementary in Ewa Beach, and Makaha Elementary on the Waianae Coast. Screenings will start at 8 a.m. Oral Care package contents were generously donated by national and local sponsors, including Global Medical & Dental.

"We must again thank Hawaii Dental Association's Dental Samaritans for choosing the Waianae Coast and Ewa as two of the locations to run this program," said area Councilmember Todd Apo. "The program's impact on our keiki's health has been successfully building over the last four years. The continued volunteerism by these dentists is extraordinary, and we're grateful to have them visit our schools. The program will help our community through its children – providing a foundation for their healthy future."

This is also the third year that the Give Kids A Smile Day program has branched to the outer islands. The HDA Dental Samaritans on Kauai will be visiting Koloa Elementary in Koloa, administering screenings to approximately 300 students.

"This event is a great opportunity to affect real change in the state of oral health in our community by calling attention to the oral health epidemic and the need to educate families and improve access to dental care," said Russell H. Masunaga DDS, director of the Dental Samaritan organization. "We are grateful that National Give Kids a Smile Program is committed to helping us help underserved communities by providing us with the dental and educational tools needed to make real changes."

Participating HDA Dental Samaritan volunteers include:

DENTISTS: (Oahu) Russell H. Masunaga DDS; Edmund Cassella DMD; Brian Kim DDS; Mark Greer DMD; Erik Tinhon DDS; Karen Hu DDS; Glenn Kaneda DDS; (Kauai) Shane Satta DDS; Lauren Bundschuh DDS; Alan Ing DDS; Antolin Apala DDS; Lisa Hirano DDS; Timothy Hirano DDS; (Supply donors) Mark Sumikawa DDS; Chris Yamada DDS.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Kim Koga.

ASSISTANTS: Roselle Nottage; Debbie Ortino; Keppie Lichota; Woong Huh; Linda Teshima; Ginger Bak; JoJo Farasati; Kendra Wong; Ann Perreira; Veronica Nakahara; Kalua Rivera.

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