

# STRONG FOUNDATION

## Historical Information

The Strong Foundation traces its history to the establishment of a free dental clinic at Palama Settlement in 1914, of which George R. Carter became a trustee in 1915. Subsequently, his wife, Helen Strong Carter, established the Honolulu Dental Infirmary in 1920 in memory of her father and mother, Henry A. Strong and Helen P. Strong of Rochester, New York. Its purpose was to train dental hygienists and to improve the teeth of the school children of Honolulu. She established the Strong Foundation to finance the Honolulu Dental Infirmary.



In 1925, when the City of Honolulu condemned the property on which the Honolulu Dental Infirmary was located, the Strong Foundation transferred the work of the Honolulu Dental Infirmary to Palama Settlement. The Strong Foundation contributed \$30,000 so that a wing could be added to the Palama Settlement medial building to be devoted exclusively to dental and dental hygiene work.

In order to “keep from pauperizing the children in a community which does so much philanthropy”, the clinic insisted that each child bring five (subsequently increased to ten) cents, although the fee was omitted “where absolutely necessary”. In the early years, the Strong Foundation donated 86% of the operating costs, the City and County of Honolulu contributed 9%, and the dimes paid by many of the patients added the additional 5%. Children who could not afford to visit dentists in private practice were welcome to the clinic, starting in first grade and subsequently were seen regularly through fifth grade.

In 1995, the dental clinic at Palama Settlement was closed by the Strong Foundation in recognition of the coverage of dental care provided through health care programs of the State. At that time, the focus of the foundation was changed to first and foremost contribute towards the major capital needs and programs that serve children and youth in Hawaii. Members of the foundation’s board of trustees remain actively involved in those charitable organizations and recommend support to the full board each year at the foundation’s annual meeting.

From its inception, a member of the Carter family has nearly continuously served on the foundation’s board, starting with George R. Carter and Helen Strong Carter and currently with their great granddaughter, Anne Carter, the foundation’s current President.