

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 519  
RELATING TO DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELLATI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: 2/10/2023

Room Number: CR 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports this measure which allows dental and  
3 dental hygiene college graduates recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on  
4 Dental Accreditation (ADA CODA) to apply for temporary and/or community service licenses. This  
5 allows community service license holders to be employed or participate in post-doctorate dental  
6 residency programs at community-based dental organizations such as the Department of Health,  
7 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), and the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems. It also  
8 supports allowing a “community health center” to employ dentists/dental hygienists that have a  
9 community service license. This bill helps address the workforce shortage of public oral health  
10 providers that serve the most underserved and vulnerable populations, including Medicaid recipients.

11 Currently, the ADA CODA only “recognizes” the Commission on Dental Accreditation of  
12 Canada (CDAC) accredited dental educational programs. Through a formal reciprocal agreement  
13 between the ADA CODA and the CDAC, the Commissions agree that the educational programs  
14 accredited by the other agency are equivalent to their own and no further education is required for  
15 eligibility for licensure.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

17 **Offered Amendments:** N/A



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
February 9, 2023

The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
House Committee on Health and Homelessness  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Belatti and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB519 Relating to Dentists and Dental Hygienists.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB519**, which Amends the qualifications for dentist community service licenses and dentist temporary licenses by requiring the acceptance of candidates who are graduates of a dental college recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. Amends the qualifications for dental hygienist community service licenses by requiring acceptance of candidates who are graduates of a dental hygiene college recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. Adds community health centers to the list of eligible organizations that may employ a dental provider with a community service license.

First, we would like to highlight and thank the legislator for reinstating adult dental benefits for Medicaid recipients during the 2022 legislative session. Many of our intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) community members rely on Medicaid as their source of healthcare coverage, and missing vital dental coverage was taking a toll on our community members' overall health. However, a long-standing issue that our I/DD community has faced is finding dental providers willing to accept Medicaid and work on individuals with I/DD.

Now that our Medicaid community has dental coverage again, many long-standing operations and care are needed for our community members. This measure should increase the number of public oral health professionals serving our vulnerable populations. We hope this measure will address Hawaii's workforce shortage in its public dental sector and increase dental access in rural and neighboring island areas.

For any substantive recommendations, we defer to the Statewide Oral Health Coalition. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB519**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus

Executive Administrator



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health & Homelessness  
Friday, February 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep, Interim Dean  
Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing

and

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 519 – RELATING TO DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 519 with comments.

This measure aims to do several things, including allowing the Board of Dentistry to issue without examination, a community service license to practice dental hygiene in the employment of a community health center and allows eligible candidates to submit as documentation and credentials, diplomas and certificates of graduation from a dental hygiene college or dental college that is recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation, recognized and approved by the Board.

Currently, the State of Hawai'i law requires that to be licensed as a dentist or a dental hygienist you must graduate from an "accredited" Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) School versus someone who is "recognized" by CODA.

After reviewing the changes this measure proposes, the outcome would not change how the Dental Hygiene Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing (NAWSON) would operate regarding curriculum. The NAWSON Dental Hygiene program is accredited by CODA. Our graduates, if licensed here in the State of Hawai'i, would be able to apply for a license.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments related to this measure.



## HAWAI'I ORAL HEALTH COALITION

Date: February 10, 2023

To: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness

Re: Support for HB519, Relating to Dentists and Dental Hygienists

Hrg: February 10, 2023, at 10:00 am - Conference Room 329 & via Videoconference

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The Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition, a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute, is in **strong support of HB519**, which revises the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act to allow community health centers to recruit eligible candidates for temporary and community service licenses, allow graduates of ADA-Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) recognized institutions eligibility for temporary and community service licenses and includes the Integrated National Dental Board Examination as an acceptable examination requirement.

The mission of the Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition (HOHC) is to improve the overall health and well-being of all Hawai'i residents by increasing access to and equity in oral health care through collaborative partnerships, advocacy, and education. HOHC is a community-driven organization comprised of members representing organizations and individuals from diverse sectors across Hawai'i. The HOHC operates under the auspice of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute.

Oral health is essential to the overall physical, psychological, social, and economic well-being of Hawai'i's residents. Yet, our residents suffer from poor oral health:

- Hawai'i has among the highest prevalence of dental decay in children and adults compared to other states.
- Low-income families, intellectually and developmentally disabled residents, kūpuna, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations, and neighbor island residents are disproportionately impacted by poor oral health.
- Our state's 14 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) cared for approximately 40,000 dental patients in 2021.<sup>i</sup> FQHCs have long wait lists due to the limited facility and staffing capacity.

- Only 240 FQHC and general practice dentists are active in Medicaid in Hawai'i. However, it is unclear how many currently accept new patients.
- Lack of an in-state dental school, geographic isolation, lack of community water fluoridation, and societal inequities are significant contributors to our poor oral health status.

HB519 will help to increase the number of dentists available to Medicaid patients. This measure will help adult Medicaid beneficiaries to gain access to the Medicaid adult dental benefits that the legislature generously approved in 2022.

The Hawai'i Dental Practice Act requires that eligible candidates for temporary and community service licensure must have graduated from an ADA – Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited institution. However, it does not reflect the reciprocal agreement between CODA and the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC). The reciprocal agreement recognizes that the "educational programs accredited by the other agency are equivalent to their own and no further education is required for eligibility for licensure."<sup>ii</sup>

HB519, as proposed, applies exclusively to community service, hygiene, and temporary dental licenses. The community service and temporary licenses for post-doctoral dental residency programs continue to require clinical oversight of these licenses by the employing entity or residency program. Only authorized entities that are community-based or focused may hire individuals with a community service license.

Illinois, Indiana, Florida, Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Wyoming are states that currently accept qualified Canadian candidates to meet the high demand for community service providers.

This bill will help increase access to care while maintaining the quality of care our residents deserve by strengthening our public dental sector, which many residents, especially those living in rural and neighbor island communities, rely on.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to pass HB519. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,



Patrick Donnelly  
Statewide Oral Health Coalition Manager  
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

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<sup>i</sup> <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/data-reporting/program-data?grantNum=H80CS06640>

<sup>ii</sup> Commission on Dental Accreditation, Evaluation & Operational Policies & Procedures. August 2022.



**HO'OLA LĀHUI HAWAI'I**  
*P.O. Box 3990; Līhu'e, Hawai'i*  
*Phone: 808.240.0100 Fax: 808.246.9551*

February 8, 2023

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

*HB 519 Relating to Dentistry Licenses*  
*Friday, February 10, 2023--10:00 AM*  
*Conference Room 329*

Ho'ola Lahui Hawaii the only Federally Qualified Health Center and Native Hawaiian Health Care System on Kauai is strongly **SUPPORTING** this bill to provide community licensing for Dental Hygienists, as is currently afforded Dentists, to work in in the employment of a federally qualified health center, Native Hawaiian health care system, community health center, or post-secondary dental auxiliary training program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.

We also support broadening the community Dentist license to extend to other accredited dental programs.

We strongly encourage the committee to support these practices.

Respectfully,

David Peters  
Chief Executive Officer



*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: Representative Belatti, Chair  
Representative Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Re: HB519, relating to dentists and dental hygienists  
10:00 a.m., Feb. 10, 2023

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and committee members:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to **testify in STRONG SUPPORT of House Bill 519, relating to dentists and dental hygienists.**

**Oral health is critical to a person's overall health and well-being.** But oral health takes access, and currently, there is a severe shortage of public oral health professionals, which includes dentists and dental hygienists. This means that at a time when more individuals have the coverage to access dental benefits, we do not have enough professionals to serve them.

This bill makes important revisions to the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act that will allow community health centers to recruit eligible candidates for temporary and community service licenses, allow graduates of ADA-Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-recognized institutions eligibility for temporary and community service licenses, and include the Integrated National Dental Board Examination as an acceptable examination requirement.

**HB519 can increase the supply of public oral health professionals at an important time: the reinstatement of dental benefits for adults insured through Medicaid.** This is a **no-cost solution** that can make an impact quickly.

**We urge you to support HB519.**

Mahalo,

Ke'ōpū Reelitz  
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

**HB-519**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:18:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dr. Lynn Fujimoto	NYU Langone Hospitals Pediatric Dentistry program	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep. Belatti and Committee members: I am the Associate Director of the NYU Langone Pediatric Dentistry program in Hawaii where I have ten pediatric dental residents that provide care to the underserved children in Hawaii. The need for dental care is so great as the Hawaii dental decay rate is higher than the national average. This bill would enable us to obtain more dental residents by including all applicants who have graduated from dental colleges recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. I ask your support of this bill to help increase the access to care of Hawaii's keikis and please feel free to contact me if you have further questions. Thanking you in advance for your support, Dr. Lynn Fujimoto, Associate Director, NYU Langone Pediatric Dentistry Hawaii Site



## Testimony in Support of HB519, Relating to Dentists and Dental Hygienists

February 9, 2023

House Committee on Health and Homelessness

February 10, 2023

10:00 am

Conference Room 329

Aloha Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members:

Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) believes everyone in Hawaii has a right to quality oral health care. We support HB519 because it will improve access to oral healthcare for Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and those with low incomes, living in rural communities, or with disabilities.

Amending the Board of Dentistry's qualifications for a community service license for both dentists and dental hygienists to practice in community health centers will make oral healthcare more accessible for Medicaid recipients and those who are uninsured. HDS understands that while this bill is not intended to address the overall oral health needs of the community or the dental providers that provide care in select fields, we lend our support to community health centers which will initially bear the largest burden of underserved communities across Hawaii.

Creating opportunities for graduates of dental programs recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation to serve in community health centers with post-doctorate residential programs provides a level of quality assurance that ensures the health of Hawaii's patients is not being compromised or put at risk.

Mahalo for supporting HB519 to make oral healthcare more accessible for more Hawaii residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Paloma", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Diane Paloma  
President and CEO

## Testimony on House Bill 519

### Relating to Dentists and Dental Hygienists

Submitted by Dr. Steven Pine, DDS., Chief Dental Officer, Hawaii Island Community Health Center

February 2, 2023

I, Dr. Steven Pine, DDS, currently work as the Chief Dental Officer at Hawaii Island Community Health Center (HICHC) and I strongly support House Bill 519 which expands access to dental health care by increasing the pool of qualified professionals.

At HICHC we believe that oral health indicates much more than simply healthy teeth, as the mouth can be both a cause and a window to individual and population health and well-being. Oral health is critical to general health and well-being as the mouth is the gateway to the rest of the body, providing clues about overall health. It is sometimes the first place where signs and symptoms of other diseases are noticed. Causes of poor oral health are complex and access to dental care for adults and children is crucial for overall health and well-being.

As the largest provider of Medicaid dental services on the Big Island, the community relies on our services to help fill the need of our islands underserved and vulnerable populations. Since the pandemic numerous national surveys indicate that over ½ of the dental hygiene workforce left during the pandemic and never returned. Our island has not been immune from this challenge. The shortage of both dentists and hygienists has been especially felt in the Medicaid community. Long wait times for services has become the norm instead of the exception. The shortage of providers has become more acute with the passage of the adult Medicaid dental benefits expansion.

House Bill 519 help address this challenge through the expansion of qualified dental professionals eligible for community service and temporary licensure without decreasing the health and safety of Hawaii residents.

Currently the Hawaii Dental Practice Act stipulates that applicants must graduate from an ADA CODA “accredited” dental program. With its current language the practice act eliminates the possibility of licensure for providers who have graduated from an ADA CODA “recognized” dental program. CODA or, the Commission on Dental Accreditation, recognizes the reciprocal agreement between themselves and the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC). CODA’s current reciprocal agreement with CDAC states:

*Under the reciprocal agreement, each Commission recognizes the accreditation of educational programs in specified categories accredited by the other agency.*

*Under this arrangement, the Commissions agree that the educational programs accredited by the other agency are equivalent to their own and no further education is required for eligibility for licensure.*

This bill would recognize and bring into alignment the Hawaii Dental Practice Act with CODA's reciprocal agreement.

If this bill is passed and drafted into law, it would apply only to community service licenses (dentists and hygienists) and temporary licenses within the state. All other required qualifications for licensure would not change and there is no pathway or backdoor access for an individual with these licenses to obtain an unrestricted license in this state without meeting the required specific qualifications for a standard license.

Allowing this change for the community service and temporary licensure allows these community-based programs and post-doctoral dental residency programs to have a greater access to qualified applicants. In addition, there will still be mandatory clinical oversight of these licenses by the employing entity or residency program.

The importance of the passage of this bill will be directly felt by our local communities. Within the last three years HICHC has had two applicants (one dentist and one hygienist) who were denied licensure because they graduated from a CODA recognized school and not a CODA accredited school. With the average provider seeing over 1,200 patients a year this loss of provider access directly affects our communities and leaves a void in our programs that can take years to fill.

For these reasons I strongly support **HB 519**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Steven C. Pine D.D.S., Chief Dental Officer  
Hawaii Island Community Health Center



## **Testimony in Support of HB 519**

Senate Committee on Health and Homelessness

February 10, 2023, 10:00AM

Relating to Dentists and Dental Hygienists

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and respected members of the Health and Homelessness Committee,

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association (HDHA) strongly **SUPPORTS HB 519**. This measure works to revise the existing Hawaii Dental Practice Act, allowing FQHC's and other community health centers to more effectively recruit eligible dentist and dental hygiene candidates for temporary and community service licenses. The requested changes in Hawaii Revised Statutes, will allow graduates of ADA-Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) institutions the ability for swifter licensure in Hawaii should they be employed solely in a defined, public health setting.

Increasing the number of eligible candidates for community service and temporary licensure in Hawaii is important because of a noticeable shortage over the last few years of public health dentists and dental hygienists who primarily treat Hawaii's underserved and vulnerable populations including Medicaid recipients who will benefit from recent legislation to include adult dental benefits.

Oral health is a critical component of overall health and wellness. HB 519 will help address the workforce shortage in the public health dental sector, improving access to quality dental care and help to reduce Hawaii's oral health disparities. This "No-Cost" approach to improve access to dental care, is an effective means of ensuring the health and quality of life for all of Hawaii's residents.

As the largest association representing Hawaii's licensed dental hygienists, HDHA strongly **SUPPORTS HB 519** and humbly ask your committee to support these proposed revisions to the Hawaii Dental Practice Act. Thank you for your consideration.

Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association

2023 Regulations and Practice Committee

## Testimony of the Board of Dentistry

Before the  
House Committee on Health and Homelessness  
Friday, February 10, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

On the following measure:  
**H.B. 519, RELATING TO DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheena Choy, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Dentistry (Board). The Board provides comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) amend the qualifications for dentist community service licenses and dentist temporary licenses by requiring the acceptance of candidates who are graduates of a dental college recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA); (2) amend the qualifications for dental hygienist community service licenses by requiring acceptance of candidates who are graduates of a dental hygiene college recognized by CODA; and (3) add community health centers to the list of eligible organizations that may employ a dental provider with a community service license.

The Board met to discuss this bill on January 23, 2023. The Board supports: (1) the addition of the term “community health center” to authorized entities that may employ dentists and/or dental hygienists with a community service license; and (2) updating the reference to the dental exam to include the “Integrated National Board Dental Examination,” which has replaced the “National Board Dental Examination Part I and Part II.” The Board respectfully requests that this updated language also be applied to Hawaii Revised Statutes section 448-9(3)(B) for consistency as follows:

**§448-9 Application for licensure.** Any person of eighteen years or more shall be eligible for licensure upon submission of:

- (1) An application to the executive officer of the board not later than forty-five days prior to the date of the scheduled examination;
- (2) Application and examination fees; and

- (3) Documentation and credentials that shall include but are not limited to the following:
  - (A) A diploma or certificate of graduation from a dental college accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation, recognized and approved by the board; and
  - (B) A certificate or other evidence satisfactory to the board of having passed parts I and II of the National Board Dental Examination or the Integrated National Board Dental Examination.

The Board cannot come to a consensus on allowing graduates from a dental hygiene or dental college “recognized” by CODA to be issued a community service license or a temporary dentist license, because a CODA “recognized” program is not the same as a CODA “accredited” program. The Board supports the intent that all residents of this State have access to competent dental services; however, there is concern regarding the inclusion of CODA “recognized” programs.

Currently, by law, the Board may issue, without examination, a community service license to practice dentistry and dental hygiene to applicants who are graduates from a dental college accredited by CODA. The Board’s statutes allow it to recognize and approve programs accredited by CODA. According to CODA “recognized” program is based on a reciprocal agreement between CODA and the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC). This reciprocal agreement has been maintained and expanded since its adoption in 1956. Under this arrangement, CODA and the CDAC agree that the educational programs accredited by the other agency are **equivalent** to their own and no further education is required for eligibility for licensure.

Board members in support of the intent of this amendment would like further clarification on the differences between “CODA recognized” and “CODA accredited” dental programs as the Board would be relying on CODA to ensure that another country’s dental education program is equivalent to CODA’s accreditation standards. Members in opposition are concerned that the proposed language would allow applicants for a community service license to bypass the examination requirement,

which assists the Board in determining whether someone is minimally competent to practice dentistry or dental hygiene safely.

Furthermore, while this bill would only affect applicants for a dental and dental hygienist licenses who are applying for a community service license or a dentist applying for a temporary license to practice dentistry exclusively under the auspices of the dental residency program, working under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, those in opposition are concerned that CODA recognized dental programs will eventually be applied to dentists and dental hygienists applying for a permanent license.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



## Hawaii Dental Association

To: House Committee on Health & Homelessness  
Time/Date: 10:00 a.m., February 10, 2023  
Location: State Capitol via Video Conference and Room 329  
Re: HB 519, Relating to Dentists and Dental Hygienists

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Dental Association (HDA) provides comments on HB 519, relating to dentists and dental hygienists. This bill amends the qualifications for dentist community service licenses and dentist temporary licenses by requiring the acceptance of candidates who are graduates of a dental college recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. It adds community health centers to the list of eligible organizations that may employ a dental provider with a community service license. **We suggest specifying that this applies to graduates of a dental college or dental hygiene college with a reciprocal agreement with the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation, rather than colleges “recognized” by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation which has no clear definition.**

HDA is committed to ensuring patient safety and promoting oral health for our community. Including this proposed language will help to ensure quality care for patients across the state.

Oral health is essential for overall health and wellness. One cannot be healthy without a healthy mouth. It can show signs of nutritional deficiencies or general infection. Systemic diseases, those that affect the entire body, may first become apparent because of mouth lesions or other oral problems. This bill seeks to increase access to sufficient dental care, especially those in native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. The high rate of tooth decay among Hawaii's children, which can lead to pain that interferes with daily activities, is of the highest degree of importance to the Hawaii Dental Association and its members. Untreated cavities also increase the risk of more serious infection in the mouth and body. We welcome an opportunity to engage in dialog on this measure and to serve as a resource to policy makers on oral health.

HDA is a statewide membership organization representing dentists practicing in Hawaii and licensed by the State of Hawaii's Board of Dentistry. HDA members are committed to protecting the oral health and well-being of the people of Hawaii, from keiki to kupuna and everyone in between. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 519.



February 10, 2023

10 a.m.

Conference Room 225

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**To: House Committee on Health & Homelessness**

**Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair**

**Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair**

**From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii**

**Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns**

RE: HB519 — RELATING TO DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS

***Comments Only***

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on [HB519](#), which would allow the state Board of Dentistry to issue community service licenses to practice dentistry and dental hygiene as well as temporary licenses to practice dentistry, provided the applicants meet certain specified criteria.

If enacted, this bill would be a positive step toward addressing Hawaii's shortage of medical professionals, which has led to significant barriers to healthcare access, especially on the neighbor islands.

It is well established that Hawaii is suffering from a shortage of vital healthcare workers, including dentists. The Hawaii Department of Health has designated both Maui and Hawaii Counties — as well as a segment of the City and County of Honolulu — as Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas.<sup>1</sup>

Fixing the shortage in healthcare workers requires a multipronged strategy that will address everything from Hawaii's high cost of living to the state's regulatory scheme for healthcare

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<sup>1</sup> ["Hawaii Health Professional Shortage Areas,"](#) Hawaii Department of Health, August 2020.

facilities. Perhaps most important is the need to reform licensing regulations for healthcare professionals.

One-fourth of all licensed workers in the U.S. work in healthcare.<sup>2</sup> Their licenses can be difficult to obtain, are expensive and carry geographic or “scope of practice” limitations.

As discussed in an upcoming policy brief on medical licensing by the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, the state’s shortage of healthcare professionals makes its restrictions on healthcare workers who already hold licenses in other U.S. states seem redundant and self-defeating.

As the Federal Trade Commission noted in a report on occupational licensing portability:

There is little justification for the burdensome, costly, and redundant licensing processes that many states impose on qualified, licensed, out-of-state applicants. Such requirements likely inhibit multistate practice and delay or even prevent licensees from working in their occupations upon relocation to a new state. Indeed, for occupations that have not implemented any form of license portability, the harm to competition from suppressed mobility may far outweigh any plausible consumer protection benefit from the failure to provide for license portability.<sup>3</sup>

In other words, though medical licensing is intended to protect the public, there is a point at which the level of regulation reduces the number of people in practice without an appreciable public benefit.

One study of licensing among medical professionals found that “licensing is associated with restricted labor supply, an increased wage of the licensed occupation, rents, increased output prices, and no measurable effect on output quality.”<sup>4</sup>

This is where we can benefit from the lessons learned during the coronavirus situation. The governor’s emergency modification to state licensing laws demonstrated a need to embrace license portability, making it a simple matter for a nurse licensed in another state to practice in Hawaii.

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<sup>2</sup> Ryann Nunn, [“Improving Health Care Through Occupational Licensing Reform.”](#) RealClear Markets, Aug. 28, 2018

<sup>3</sup> Karen Goldman, [“Options to Enhance Occupational License Portability.”](#) U.S. Federal Trade Commission, September 2018, p. 25.

<sup>4</sup> Sean Nicholson and Carol Propper, [“Chapter Fourteen — Medical Workforce.”](#) in “Handbook of Health Economics, Vol. 2,” Elsevier, B.V., 2012, p. 885, cited also in the previously mentioned [FTC study](#), footnote #9, p3.

The expanded permissions to issue temporary and community service licenses for dentistry and dental hygiene outlined in this bill are a partial answer to the need to attract more dentists to Hawaii.

Over the long term, lawmakers should consider other ways to enhance license portability, to help end health professional shortages and improve healthcare access for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

Ted Kefalas  
Director of Strategic Campaigns,  
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

To: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Hearing Date/Time: February 10, 2023 at 10:00AM; Conference Room 329; Videoconference

Re: Support for HB519, Relating to Dentistry Licenses

Aloha Chair Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB519** which revises the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act to allow community health centers to recruit eligible candidates for temporary and community service licenses, allow graduates of ADA-Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) recognized institutions eligibility for temporary and community service licenses, and includes the Integrated National Dental Board Examination as an acceptable examination requirement.

Increasing the number of eligible candidates for community service and temporary licensure is important because oral health is a critical component of overall health and wellness. The proposed amendments will support the overwhelming need for providers that serve vulnerable Hawai'i residents, especially those receiving the recently reinstated Medicaid dental benefits. No-cost approaches to improving access to dental care, such as these, are an effective means of protecting the State's investment in ensuring the health and quality of life that everyone in Hawai'i deserves.

For these reasons, I humbly ask you to support these proposed revisions to the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act.

Mahalo,

Gerraine Hignite BS, RDH

**HB-519**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 3:48:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emi Eno Orikasa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Hearing Date/Time: February 10, 2023 at 1:00PM; Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Re: Support for SB162, Relating to Dentistry Licenses

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB162 which revises the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act to allow community health centers to recruit eligible candidates for temporary and community service licenses, allow graduates of ADA-Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) recognized institutions eligibility for temporary and community service licenses, and includes the Integrated National Dental Board Examination as an acceptable examination requirement.

Increasing the number of eligible candidates for community service and temporary licensure is important. There is a severe shortage of public oral health professionals (dentists and dental hygienists) that primarily serve underserved and vulnerable populations. This includes Medicaid recipients. This is even more pertinent as Medicaid expanded the adult dental benefits. This bill will help address this workforce shortage in the public dental sector, rural and neighbor islands to improve access to dental care and reduce oral health disparities.

Oral health is a critical component of overall health and wellness. The proposed amendments will support the overwhelming need for providers that serve vulnerable Hawai'i residents, especially those receiving the recently reinstated Medicaid dental benefits. No-cost approaches to improving access to dental care, such as these, are an effective means of protecting the State's investment in ensuring the health and quality of life that everyone in Hawai'i deserves.

For these reasons, I humbly ask you to **support** these proposed revisions to the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act, Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Emi Eno Orikasa

**HB-519**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 4:59:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sharon R Shishido	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in Full Agreement of this Health Bill.

Sharon R Shishido,AS, RDH

Date: February 10, 2023

Committee: House Committee on Health and Homelessness

Bill #: HB 519, Relating to Dentists and Dental Hygienists

Testifier: Nancy S. Partika, RN, MPH

Aloha Chairperson Au Belatti, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members;

My name is Nancy Partika, and, as a lifelong public health professional, I wish to indicate strong support for HB 519, which proposes to revise the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act to allow community health centers to recruit eligible candidates for temporary and community service licenses, allow graduates of ADA-Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) recognized institutions eligibility for temporary and community service licenses and includes the Integrated National Dental Board Examination as an acceptable examination requirement.

I support the findings and recommendations that the Hawaii Oral Health Coalition has offered in its testimony on HB 519.

Currently, oral health care in Hawaii is available to those who can afford it. Those who cannot/do not have adequate dental insurance struggle to get even acute dental needs met. All ages are adversely affected by the broken oral health system—from young keiki to our elderly, as are all islands.

The 2022 Hawaii State Legislative session allocated over \$25 million to MQD/DHS to reinstate adult dental benefits and MQD-DHS has rolled out the reinstatement of adult dental benefits for Medicaid as of January 2023.

The dental provider network to serve an estimated 329,000 adults and children currently on Medicaid is currently inadequate, and significantly depends on the dental services provided by Hawaii's 14 FQHCs, which served just under 40,000 persons total in CY 2021. Only 11% of Hawaii's dental providers serve 100 or more persons on Medicaid, likely due in part to the fact that adult recipients have had emergency-only benefits from 2009-2022.

HB 519 proposes needed change to community service, hygiene, and temporary dental licenses. The community service and temporary licenses for post-doctoral dental residency programs will continue to require clinical oversight of these licenses by the employing entity or residency program. Only authorized entities that are community-based or focused may hire individuals with a community service license.

This bill will help increase access to care while maintaining the quality of care our residents deserve by strengthening our public dental sector, which is currently the primary provider of dental care to underserved populations, such as Medicaid recipients and rural/neighbor island communities.

This proposed action is just one element of a larger systemic strategy that is needed to help to move us in the direction of improved health and dental services access and delivery. Mahalo for your consideration of HB 519.

**HB-519**

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:10:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Cortez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Hearing Date/Time: February 10, 2023 at 10:00AM; Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Re: Support for HB519, Relating to Dentistry Licenses

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in ***strong support*** of HB519 which revises the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act to allow community health centers to recruit eligible candidates for temporary and community service licenses, allow graduates of ADA-Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) recognized institutions eligibility for temporary and community service licenses, and includes the Integrated National Dental Board Examination as an acceptable examination requirement.

Increasing the number of eligible candidates for community service and temporary licensure is important because there is great need in local communities for dental aid. If qualified and educated providers are willing to help people in need they should be allowed to do so in a safe environment.

Oral health is a critical component of overall health and wellness. The proposed amendments will support the overwhelming need for providers that serve vulnerable Hawai'i residents, especially those receiving the recently reinstated Medicaid dental benefits. No-cost approaches to improving access to dental care, such as these, are an effective means of protecting the State's investment in ensuring the health and quality of life that everyone in Hawai'i deserves.

For these reasons, I humbly ask you to **support** these proposed revisions to the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act, Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Erin Cortez, BSDH, MSAH

To: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Hearing Date/Time: February 10, 2023 at 10:00AM; Conference Room 329 & Videoconference  
Re: Support for HB519, Relating to Dentists and Dental Hygienists

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB519.

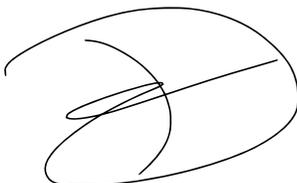
I am a dentist who works with underserved and Indigenous populations across Canada. I recently completed my Master of Public Health which included conducting research with Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition. I was surprised to observe the poor access to care that many vulnerable people in Hawai'i face. The resulting poor oral health translates into poor overall health. This inequality further results in a huge expense to the health care system.

I have passed my INBDE and ADEX exams, in the hopes of obtaining licensure in Hawai'i to work with underserved populations. Unlike the vast majority of states in America, I was informed that even though I passed my INBDE, ADEX, and my dental school in Canada meets the accreditation standards that are recognized by the ADA's CODA-CDAC mutual reciprocal agreement, I am ineligible for licensure.

If Hawai'i recognizes the reciprocal agreement between CODA and CDAC, this will allow qualified, board certified dentists, who have passed the INBDE, to provide preventative and restorative care to vulnerable populations in underserved areas. This can drastically improve the health of these communities and decrease the overall financial burden on the state. No-cost approaches to improving access to care are an effective means of protecting the State's investment in ensuring the health and quality of life that everyone in Hawai'i deserves, especially those receiving the recently reinstated Medicaid dental benefits.

I humbly ask you to **support** these proposed revisions to the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act and pass HB519.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' with a horizontal line through it, enclosed in an oval shape.

Dr. Andrew Davidson  
BSc, DMD, MPH

Date: February 10, 2023

Committee: House Committee on Health and Homelessness

**Strong Support of Bill #: HB 519, Relating to Dentists and Dental Hygienists**

To: Chairperson Au Belatti, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members

I am writing in **support of HB519** which proposes to revise the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act to allow community health centers to recruit eligible candidates for temporary and community service licenses, allow graduates of ADA-Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) recognized institutions eligibility for temporary and community service licenses and includes the Integrated National Dental Board Examination as an acceptable examination requirement.

As a member of the Hawaii Oral Health Coalition and the Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association, I support the testimony both have offered on HB 519. I work for an organization that supports Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities through the Home and Community Based Services waiver program. Many of the adults that I work with have Medicaid as their primary health insurance. Their families have discussed difficulty accessing a variety of health professionals including oral health professionals on the island of Kauai. This bill would work to support that effort to increase opportunities for health care services.

During my career as a dental hygienist, I have had the opportunity to work with public health departments and provided community dental health services to elementary school age, Head Start pre-school age and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities in a variety of public health settings. In the state that I relocated from, I was one of the first dental hygienists to be a Medicaid provider and obtain a Community Dental Health Certificate. In addition to providing preventive oral health services, I was part of a team that provided necessary triage services for community members with unmet dental needs to be connected with Federally Qualified (Dental) Health Centers.

I am grateful and was very supportive of the 2022 effort to reinstate Medicaid Adult Dental Health benefits. If HB 519 passes, it would provide opportunities for dental health professionals like myself who have received the desired dental health and public health training described above to be able to make a contribution that is greatly needed for Hawaii residents.

**Submitted by:**

Anne Hvizdak, BSDH, CDHC  
Member Hawaii Oral Health Coalition  
Member Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association  
669 Aewa St. #375  
Eleele, HI (Kauai) 96705  
[Hvizdak11@gmail.com](mailto:Hvizdak11@gmail.com)



# ALOHACARE

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health and Homelessness

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President  
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2023, 10am

RE: **HB519 Relating to Dentistry Licenses**

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AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB519**. This measure will revise the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act to allow community health centers to recruit eligible candidates for temporary and community service licenses, to allow graduates of American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) recognized institutions eligibility for temporary and community service licenses, and to include the Integrated National Dental Board Examination as an acceptable examination requirement.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately half of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care.

Our firm belief in ensuring access to quality, whole-person care is the reason we advocated so strongly year after year for the reinstatement of adult dental benefits in the Medicaid program. And we are so grateful to the 2022 Hawai'i State Legislature for reinstituting dental care coverage (\$25.9M) for Medicaid members. Now we turn our focus to implementing this benefit. SB162 will help to expand the dental workforce statewide to serve the 250,000+ Medicaid adult recipients now seeking dental care.

According to the Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition, of which we are a member:

- Only 240 private Hawai'i dentists accept adults with Medicaid health insurance.
- Our State's 14 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) cared for approximately 40,000 dental patients in 2021. FQHCs have long patient wait lists due to limited facility and staffing capacity.

SB162 will increase the number of dental providers and strengthen our public dental sector on which many residents—especially those who live in rural and neighbor islands communities—while maintaining quality of care.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of HB519**.

ALZM/MA 194

1ST 4P HB 519

1.1  
NOT submitted (i) Supp

Date: February 10, 2023

House Committee: on Health and Human Services

To: The Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Re: ~~S.B. 162, Relating to Dentistry Licenses~~  
**H.B. 519 Relating to dentist and Hygienist LICENSING**

Hrg: February 10, 2023 at 1:00pm - Conference Room 225 & via Videoconference

Testifier: Dr. Don B. Sand, DDS

✓ still ping

BU

Aloha Chair ~~Joy San Buenaventura~~ Vice Chair ~~Henry J.C. Aquino~~ and distinguished ~~Members~~ Committee Members

My name is Dr. Don Sand, DDS.

(no whiton hshmm - can! "TAKENOCHI")  
A. As a dentist on the front lines of treating the underserved in Hawaii for 8 years and as a leader in our safety-net sector for 7 years I would like to strongly support bill ~~HB 517~~ **HB 519**

B. As a founding member of HOHC, Hawaii Oral Health Coalition in 2019, and as the current Chair of the committee on prevention and access I would like to strongly support Bill ~~HB 517~~ **HB 519**

The problem:

Hawaii does many, many things better than the other 49 states and for this reason we are lucky fo' live and work in Hawaii. However, according to most of the oral public health metrics our state has been receiving a failing score for many years. Even as our medical delivery system is highly respected our oral health system has the highest disparity to access and inequality to dental care as one compares the access the upper and middle class enjoy compared the underserved, vulnerable and homeless.

Currently, oral health care in Hawaii is available to those who can afford it. Those who cannot/do not have adequate dental insurance struggle to get even acute dental needs met. All ages are adversely affected by the broken oral health system—from young keiki to adults from age 21 to the Kupuna. Most severely affected are those living in the rural areas and most areas of our neighboring islands, especially in the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island communities.

Thousands of our people have some missing front teeth needed to smile for work, for job interviews or to be able to enjoy essential social and behavioral health needs from feeling basic esteem in their smile. Everyday thousands of adults are suffering the inability to enjoy plate lunch much less have enough back teeth to meet their minimal nutritional needs. Finally, because the system is broken Everyday our people are suffering pain of oral infections, and facial infections due to abscessed teeth and gum that is costing the patient and our state. In a recent 5-year Hawaii study, oral disease that could have been prevented cost our ER hospital systems \$38.7 million, close to having Medicaid funds lost.

We want to publicly thank this committee, and Senator Joy and Senator Aquino who have supported many bills and measures for improving the lives and health care of the underserved in Hawaii.

Low MFL!

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front teeth  
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Rep. Diana Garcia

Takenochi

HB 519

(X) Bill  
last year this committee supported that led the way to having  
 Last year this committee can be credited in leading the way in having the 2022 State Legislative session pass a measure to reinstate the adult dental Medicaid benefit after a 12 year absence. The bill was successful and allocation of matched State and Federal funds totalling \$25.9 million. These funds are currently waiting in DHS, the MedQuest division.

☹️ Unfortunately, this allocation does not address the need to increase the capacity of the system. 280,000 patients became eligible for dental care and these patients will not have an easy chance to get an appointment. In fact due to an obvious oral health crisis, a study is not needed as everyone in the system knows that we need an urgent capacity build-out.

✂️ One quick example that may illustrate the **huge need** compared to our **existing capacity** can be seen by looking at the rough numbers of patients seen in our 14 safety-net community health centers in 2021. The total estimated **combined patients seen were just under 40,000**. Please contrast that number 40,000 served to the **280,000 adults** that can now be eligible for Medicaid dental services starting last month Jan 1, 2023. (It may be noteworthy that of those 280,000 eligible it is estimated that 70,000 are Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders.)

✂️ The number one capacity element needed in this challenge to service these new Medicaid patients is the need of more highly qualified licensed dentists and hygienists. There is no dental school and never has been a dental school in Hawaii unlike most states and this has contributed to a growing severe statewide workforce shortage. Try and imagine how much worse our physician's workforce pool would be if we did not have JABSOM? Creating a dental school would be minimally a 6-7 year plan as it would still take 4 years for the first student to matriculate. The immediate answer would be to recruit mission minded dentists and hygienists who would serve in return for having the opportunity to enjoy Hawaii before their careers are over.

ANSWER

A step towards a solution: HB519

✂️ This bill has no cost to the state but will save millions of dollars each year by allowing our system to license and deploy more highly qualified dentists and hygienists with temporary and community service licenses. As the original language of the HRS 448, these professionals coming to Hawaii or are already here in Hawaii can step in to help our underserved. ~~It continue to be limited to community health initiatives serving in charity programs.~~ (Medicaid programs, public health outreach programs, rural health and preventive care initiatives. The typical mission minded dentists have had successful careers, have no debts unlike new graduates and are happy to work as volunteers or for low salaries as they understand the reimbursement rates for preventive care and outreach care is very low.

SCORE ARE  
 CATEGORY  
 In the center  
 Community Health Center  
 Saw included  
 Medicaid Program

✂️ ~~no matter the length of time served in the islands,~~ the community service license which is over 10 years old, never has had and never will have any provision to convert to the "community service license" to become an unrestricted license of the kind most private practices dentists who serve the middle and upper socio-economic class. (that has been misinterpreted past)

This bill does not change in any way the original intent or scope of practice for the community service license but only aims to clarify the language by describing in detail the service entities that these charity minded professionals can serve using the phrase "community health center".

The second provision in this bill is intended to clarify the phrase CODA accredited and the phrase CODA recognized in describing health care professions of "equivalent" high standard of training and licensure in their home state ( USA) and their home country ( Canada).

such as  
 Keiki  
 Sectional  
 programs  
 Title I  
 Schools

Again this is not in anyway relating to unrestricted dental licenses or hygiene license  
 drafted terms  
 Length this restricted only to the community service license.

This bill will help address this workforce shortage in the public dental sector, rural and neighbor islands to improve access to dental care and reduce oral health disparities.

As Hawai'i continues to see poor oral health outcomes among our vulnerable populations, we must continue to work together to enhance innovative, resourceful and proactive approaches to increase access to care while maintaining the quality of care our residents deserve.

Mahalo for your consideration and strong support of ~~HB. 617~~. And much Mahalos for this opportunity to testify.

HB. 519

Dr. Don Sand, DDS