

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2010

Friday, February 5, 2010  
9:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2547, RELATING TO THE DENTAL LICENSURE  
EXAMINATION.**

TO THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Jeffrey Miyazawa, D.D.S., Chair of the Board of Dental Examiners ("Board"). The Board appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of this Administration bill, but respectfully requests amendments to H.B. No. 2547, Relating to the Dental Licensure Examination.

The purpose of H.B. No. 2547 as originally proposed by the Board was to allow flexibility in determining which dental examination will be accepted for licensure as the effort to establish one national dental examination through the American Board of Dental Examiners ("ADEX") has met with many setbacks and there are many uncertainties. Instead, the Board now requests the bill be amended to require passage of the ADEX or the Central Regional Dental Testing Service ("CRDTS") national dental examination for licensure of dentists.

Currently, the statute requires that dentists pass the ADEX dental licensure examination ("ADLEX") to obtain licensure in Hawaii. At the time this requirement was enacted, there was an effort to establish a national examination, with participation from all of the dental testing agencies, including the regional testing agencies and

independent state boards who are not a member of a regional testing agency. Although the ADEX examination or ADLEX was developed and continues to be given, only the North East Regional Board of Dental Examiners, Inc. ("NERB") and the Nevada state board continue to administer the ADLEX. Hawaii, as a member of CRDTS, has been administering the ADLEX from 2005, but in 2009 CRDTS terminated its membership with ADEX. Consequently, all other regional testing agencies, including CRDTS, and independent state boards now administer their own examinations.

Currently, CRDTS has developed and administers its own national dental examination, which is recognized by most of the states. As a member of CRDTS, the Board has representation and is an equal participant in the dental examination. By also allowing for the passage of the CRDTS national dental exam for dental licensure, there would be a seamless transition of the Board's exam requirement should something happen to the ADLEX. Moreover, the Board already requires the CRDTS national dental hygiene examination for licensure of dental hygienists.

Therefore, the Board requests that H.B. No. 2547 be amended by allowing for the passage of the ADLEX or the CRDTS national dental examination for licensure of dentists in Hawaii.

Attached is an amended H.B. No. 2547 for your consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of amending H.B. No. 2547.

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DENTAL LICENSURE EXAMINATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

SECTION 1. Section 448-9.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§448-9.4 ~~[American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) examination; regional examinations.]~~ Dental licensure examination. An applicant shall take and pass the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) or the Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS) national dental examination, a national dental licensure examination as approved by the board, ~~[and neither the state examination nor any regional examination shall be accepted].~~"

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

BY REQUEST

Hawaii State Legislature  
State House of Representatives  
Committee on Health

Representative Ryan I Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health

Tuesday, February 5, 2010, 9:30 a.m. Room 329  
House Bill 2547 Relating to the Dental Licensure Examination

Honorable Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto and  
members of the House Committee on Health,

My name is Russel Yamashita and I am the legislative representative for the Hawaii Dental Association(HDA) and its 965 member dentists. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 2547 Relating to the Dental Licensure Examination. The bill before you today would seek to eliminate the current examination which was adopted 2005, the American Board of Dental Examiners examination.

The language in this bill would allow the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners to select and adopt any examination it deemed adequate to meet the testing qualifications to meet the licensure requirements. The HDA supported the adoption of the ADEX examination in 2005 and continues to support its use. The Association does not believe that the Board of Dental Examiners should be the sole arbiter of the examination requirement for the profession.

The HDA believes that any changes to the examination to be allowed to meet the license requirement of the dental profession should be by statutory change, with full vetting by the State Legislature and the interested parties to this issue. The HDA does not support of any changes to the current statute.

Therefore, the HDA does not support the passage of HB 2547 in any form. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in this matter