

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2015

Friday, February 6, 2015  
2:30 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 114, RELATING TO DENTISTRY.**

TO THE HONORABLE JOSH GREEN, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Staphe Fujimoto, D.D.S., Dental member of the Board of Dental Examiners ("Board"). The Board appreciates the opportunity to testify and offer comments on Senate Bill No. 114, Relating to Dentistry.

The purpose of Senate Bill No. 114 is to require dentists to complete three hours of ethics training for their initial licenses, including community service licenses, and for license renewals.

The Board supports the intent of this measure but notes that it has already promulgated and approved draft amendments to its existing continuing education rules to provide for ethics training, and requests that it be allowed to complete this process and adopt a continuing education ethics requirement through its rulemaking process rather than by statute.

The draft rule amendment provides for a continuing education ("CE") requirement in ethics training of at least two hours, and further clarifies the composition of eligible CE categories as required in section 448-8.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 114  
Friday, February 6, 2015  
Page 2

The draft rule adequately fulfills the purpose of this bill and extends further to require dental hygiene licensees to complete an ethics course as a part of the CE requirement as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 114, and I will be available for questions.

Hawaii State Legislature  
State Senate  
Committee on Health

State Senator Dr. Josh Green, Chair  
State Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health

Friday, February 6, 2015, 1:15 p.m. Room 414  
Senate Bill 114 Relating to Dentistry

Honorable Chair Dr. Josh Green, Vice Chair Glenn Wakai, and members of the Senate Committee on Health,

My name is Dr. Lynn Fujimoto and I am the President of the Hawaii Dental Association. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill 114. Since 1995, I have been a Fellow of the American College of Dentistry which is the oldest major honorary organization for dentists. The mission of the American College of Dentists is to advance excellence, ethics, professionalism and leadership in dentistry.

Dental ethics applies moral principles and virtues to the practice of dentistry. Ethics affect virtually every decision made in a dental office and affects relationships with patients, the public, office staff and other professionals. When ethics are ignored, dentists may make unethical decisions leading to unethical conduct. And unethical conduct can compromise your service to your patients and undermines your ability to function as a professional.

Therefore, the Hawaii Dental Association has introduced this bill to ensure that each licensee shall present to the Board of Dental Examiners evidence of having obtained at least three hours of ethics training in the two-year license period immediately preceding the registration application. Granted, this will not in itself prevent unethical behavior but be a reminder of the Code of Ethics that the American Dental Association established in 1886.

A profession has been defined as an occupation involving relatively long and specialized preparation on a level of higher education and governed by a special code of ethics. The constructive aim of a profession is public good. Dentistry is recognized as a profession.

Hawaii State Legislature  
State Senate  
Committee on Health

State Senator Dr. Josh Green, Chair  
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Committee on Health

Friday, February 6, 2015, 2:30 p.m. Room 414  
Senate Bill 114 Relating to Dentistry

Honorable Chair Dr. Josh Green, Vice Chair Glenn Wakai, and members of the Senate  
Committee on Health,

My name is Russel Yamashita and I am the legislative representative for the Hawaii Dental Association and its 960 member dentists. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 114 Relating to Dentistry. The HDA believes that the added requirement of ethics education is one that all professions should understand to maintain the integrity of their status as a profession and assure the public that their interests are protected by those who are licensed by the State of Hawaii.

As with many professions, Hawaii's licensed dentists are required to maintain their professional licensure with continuing education classes in order to keep up with current professional standards and procedures. With this legislation, ethics is an area which is often overlooked with the numerous topics covering changing technology and new scientific findings that health care professionals are having to deal with. The Hawaii Dental Association strongly supports this important requirement.