

JAN 19 2018

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO DENTAL LICENSURE.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the majority of  
2 state dental boards grant licenses to dentists to practice in  
3 any setting, if those dentists are currently licensed and in  
4 active, continuous practice for a specified period of time in  
5 another jurisdiction, without further theoretical and clinical  
6 examination. This license recognition system for dentists,  
7 often referred to as licensure by credentials, may also be  
8 referred to as licensure by reciprocity, endorsement, or  
9 criteria.

10       The legislature further finds that the American Dental  
11 Association supports licensure by credentials. According to  
12 American Dental Association policy, "requiring a candidate who  
13 is seeking licensure in several jurisdictions to demonstrate his  
14 or her theoretical knowledge and clinical skill on separate  
15 examinations for each jurisdiction seems unnecessary  
16 duplication." The American Dental Association also believes  
17 that "an evaluation of a practicing dentist's theoretical



1 knowledge and clinical skill based on his or her performance  
2 record can provide as much protection to the public as would an  
3 evaluation based on examination."

4       The legislature additionally finds that dental boards in  
5 forty-six states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico,  
6 have the authority to grant licensure by credentials. Hawaii is  
7 one of only four states that do not permit licensure by  
8 credentials. This creates difficulties for otherwise well-  
9 qualified dentists who seek to relocate to Hawaii. Failure to  
10 issue licensure by credentials also burdens those dentists with  
11 roots in Hawaii who went to school on the mainland, as the  
12 legislature notes that the State lacks a school of dentistry,  
13 practiced on the mainland for a number of years, but still  
14 maintain close ties with Hawaii.

15       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to increase access  
16 to high-quality dental care in Hawaii, while still maintaining  
17 appropriate consumer protections, by requiring the board of  
18 dental examiners to issue a license by credentials to a  
19 practicing dentist who is licensed in another state and meets  
20 other specific requirements.



1       SECTION 2. Chapter 448, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4       "§448-       Licensure by credentials.   The board shall issue  
5 a license by credentials to a dentist if:

6       (1)   The applicant:

7           (A)   Files an application for licensure by credentials  
8           and pays any fees as prescribed by the board; and

9           (B)   Is a practicing dentist who:

10           (i)   Graduated from an accredited school of  
11           dentistry;

12           (ii)   Holds a license to practice dentistry in  
13           another state whose licensing requirements  
14           include passage of the ADEX examination, its  
15           predecessor examination, or another  
16           nationally recognized, substantially  
17           equivalent examination recommended by the  
18           American Dental Association;

19           (iii)   Is in good standing in the state of  
20           licensure; and



1            (iv) Has engaged in the active practice of  
2            dentistry in another state for a minimum of  
3            five years immediately preceding the date  
4            the application was received; and

5        (2) The board determines that no disciplinary action has  
6        been taken by any dental licensing authority and the  
7        applicant has not been the subject of adverse  
8        judgments or settlements resulting from the practice  
9        of dentistry that the board determines constitute  
10       evidence of a pattern of negligence or incompetence."

11       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

12       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

13       INTRODUCED BY:

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# S.B. NO. 2492

**Report Title:**

Dentists; Licensure; Licensure by Credentials

**Description:**

Requires the board of dental examiners to issue a license by credentials to a practicing dentist who is licensed in another state and meets other specific requirements.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

