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**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 680, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF DENTISTRY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WESLEY JOONG JUNG CHOY,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2024**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the confirmation of Dr. Wesley Joong Jung Choy's appointment to the Board of Dentistry (Board) as a licensee member.

Dr. Choy has 30 years of experience as a dentist. He is a graduate of 'Iolani School and the University of Hawaii, and he earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Missouri – Kansas City Dental School. Dr. Choy began practicing general dentistry after completing his residency at St. Francis Medical Center in 1990. He earned the honor of being named one of Honolulu Magazine's "Best Dentists in Hawaii" in 2018.

Dr. Choy continues to refine his practice through his involvement in the Terry Tanaka Study Club. He is a member of various dental associations, including the American Dental Association, Academy of General Dentistry, and Honolulu County Dental Society. He appreciates and understands the commitment necessary to prepare for and attend the Board's meetings.

The Department believes that Dr. Choy's lengthy professional experience and continued learning within the profession will offer a knowledgeable perspective to the Board. In addition, his desire to serve on the Board and commitment to actively participate in board meetings will greatly enhance the Board's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaii Dental Association

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., May 13, 2020

Location: Capitol Conference Room 229

Re: **GM 680, Nomination of Wesley Choy to the Board of Dentistry**

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Hawaii Dental Association (HDA), we are writing in support of Dr. Wesley Choy's appointment to the Board of Dentistry. Dr. Choy has more than 30 years of experience as a practicing dentist in Hawaii and has served as an active member of the American Dental Association and the Hawaii Dental Association for all of those years.

We commend the legislature for reviewing the credentials and commitment of members of the community who are willing to serve in important leadership roles on boards and commissions. We believe that Dr. Choy's service will benefit the people of the state of Hawaii.

HDA is a statewide professional membership organization representing dentists practicing in Hawaii and licensed by the State of Hawaii Board of Dentistry. HDA members are committed to protecting the oral health and well-being of all of the people of Hawaii, from keiki to kupuna and everyone in between.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of GM 680.

Norman S. Chun, D.M.D.
Pediatric Dentistry

May 9, 2020

Re: Recommendation for Dr. Wesley Choy to the Board of Dentistry

Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Baker:

I am writing on behalf of Dr. Wesley Choy who is seeking the appointment to the Hawaii Board of Dentistry.

I recommend Dr. Choy without any reservations. I have known Dr. Choy for over 40 years and as a colleague he is an extremely knowledgeable and talented practitioner. He has been in practice for 31 years and during this time he has served on numerous Hawaii Dental Association committees and community service clubs. He has a thirst for knowledge and is involved in multiple prestigious dental study organizations and has accumulated numerous service and academic awards in the process. He will bring all of his talents to the Board of Dentistry and will serve the people of Hawaii extremely well.

Respectfully,

Dr. Norman S. Chun

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Norman S. Chun, D.M.D.
Pediatric Dentistry

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Brigadier General Roy-Alan C. Agustin, USAF, Retired
1562 Nehoa Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Stanley Chang
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu Hawaii 96813

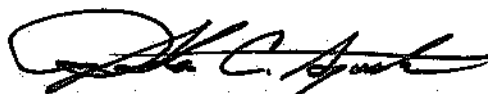
Dear Senators,

I recently learned of Governor David Ige's nomination of Dr. Wesley J. Choy, DDS, to the Board of Dentistry, and I humbly encourage your favorable consideration and confirmation of this nomination. Dr. Choy's over three decades of exceptional dental knowledge and professional care, coupled with his community experience as the owner of his private practice, make him a perfect fit for the Hawaii State Board of Dentistry.

Dr. Wesley Choy has been a friend with whom I have entrusted the dental care of my wife, two children and even my 90-year-old mother to Dr Choy for many years. After retiring last year from the Air Force and returning to Hawaii, I also became a client. As a result of our years of friendship, I have directly witnessed Dr. Choy's passion for service and for upholding professional standards. Dr. Choy served as a Captain and dentist in the Army Reserves. He also demonstrated his desire for sustained pursuit of medical knowledge and best practices by promoting a dental study club among over 40 dentists, encompassing professionals across our state, Japan, Alaska and the West coast.

For over 20 years I have known and respected Dr. Wesley Choy for his exceptional competence and impeccable character. By your confirmation of his appointment to the Board of Dentistry, the State of Hawaii will be able to capitalize on his dental talents and leadership.

Sincerely,



ROY-ALAN C. AGUSTIN, F.SAME, PMP
Brigadier General, USAF, Retired
City & County of Honolulu District 10 Board Member

Melissa Pavlicek
1099 Alakea Street, Suite 2530
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

May 12, 2020

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce Consumer Protection and Health
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Recommendation of Dr. Wesley Choy to the Board of Dentistry (GM 680)

Aloha Senator Baker!

I am a Hawaii attorney and small business owner, writing in my personal capacity to recommend Dr. Wesley Choy to serve on the state board of dentistry. I have previously served as a public member of the then "Board of Dental Examiners" and know first hand the tremendous amount of time, dedication and attention that serving well takes. I believe that the Board of Dentistry is one of the most important regulatory agencies affiliated with the Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs because it has such a large charge: the public's safety, individuals' health, and consumer protection among, in addition to the regulation of dentists and dental hygienists. As Hawaii and the world emerges from the pandemic, there has never been a greater need for attention on public health. Thank you for helping to ensure that the Board of Dentistry members are qualified and committed to serving the people of Hawaii.

I have the opportunity to work with many dentists in connection with my business. I believe that Dr. Wesley Choy will serve with integrity and commitment as a diligent and contributing member of the Board of Dentistry. Please confirm his nomination.

Sincerely,

Melissa Pavlicek
(808) 447-1840

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

(2) I would like to humbly use my 30+ years as a Dentist to give something back to my community by offering my input and participation to the Board as it manages its duties and responsibilities moving forward in this unprecedented time in history.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

To ensure that the oral health care delivered by Dental offices is safe for everyone involved and scientifically valid while maintaining the high-quality care our state's population deserves. Monitoring the ADEX examination and evaluating its effectiveness in meeting our state's needs. Keeping abreast of and reviewing issues affecting Dentistry and weighing their impacts on Dental practices as well as the consumers they serve. Having an understanding of professional and ethical standards in regards to Dentists and their practices. Being knowledgeable of the criteria and procedures in place to discipline anyone who warrants such action.

(3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

We are all consumers and in that regard we all want to be treated ethically and not taken advantage of. As far as Dental care and the issue of consumer protection goes, as long as the Dental team is practicing within the scope of our national and state guidelines the consumer should "ideally" be protected. That said, even great intentions and superior practice protocols can yield less than favorable results. Each case must be examined individually and treated accordingly. I feel strongly that the consumer's protection should be first and foremost and it is the responsibility of the practitioner to practice in manner that reasonably ensures that. This would be my philosophy and I would lean on my past experiences in conjunction with all the legal statutes to guide me towards formulating a recommendation to my fellow board members.

(4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

I completed an AGD program at the St. Francis Medical Center at which time I worked one on one with numerous doctors representing all the Dental specialties

as well rotations through different Medical departments. Our patient base encompassed people of all ages, economic status and even those confined to our correctional facilities. This experience expanded not only my Dental knowledge, but also my experience with the diverse community that I now serve. I have served in the Army reserves as a Dental officer. I was the past president of the Terry Tanaka Study Club. My professional associations include the ADA, AGD, HDA, HCD and I am a Fellow of the Academy of Dentistry International.

- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I want to continue the Boards duty to serving the people of Hawaii. The immediate challenge that we are currently facing with the covid-19 pandemic requires direction from the Board. I would like to work to help establish guidelines in conjunction with the CDC and ADA and the legislature to ensure Dental offices remain safe for both their staff as well as their patients. As with any other issues than come before the Board I would like to use my experience to be a fair and reasonable voice whenever making recommendations to my fellow Board members.

- (6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

I am a good listener, effective communicator and a team player. My passion and respect for the Dental profession has only grown over the years and I want to ensure the profession continues serving Hawaii's population as best that it can. As a member of the Board you must listen and respect everyone's opinion, be able to clearly communicate your views and work with everyone for the greater good and I feel that I have these qualities.

- (7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

During my time at St. Francis Medical Center the residents were tasked with implementing the reaccreditation of the Dental department for the hospital in addition to our regular duties. We spent a lot of time learning the bureaucratic requirements and implementing the necessary procedures and programs to become recertified. This took a lot of team work with the residents as well as the staff and administration to be successful.

- (8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I cannot foresee any conflicts of interest at this time. I would address any conflict by examining the issue of conflict and resolve it or recuse myself if warranted.