

Testimony of the Board of Dentistry

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

**On the following measure:
S.B.2584, RELATING TO DENTAL ASSISTANTS**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sandra Matsushima, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Dentistry (Board). The Board will review this bill at its next publicly noticed meeting on February 10, 2020.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) establish minimum requirements for dental assistants; and (2) clarify the allowable and prohibited practices by dental assistants.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Testimony in Support of SB2584, Relating to Dental Assistants

January 28, 2020

Dear Chair Baker and members of the COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH:

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association (HDHA) supports the intent of **SB2684**. We applaud your leadership in initiating this important safety measure during the 2020 legislative session.

It has been determined by the Sunrise Analysis of 2018 that several basic tasks, routinely performed by dental assistants in Hawai'i, can and do pose a reasonable risk of injury to patients. Tasks such as, proper infection control and sterilization, radiation exposure, use of sharp instruments to remove excess cement or other materials within the mouth, or possible aspiration while taking intraoral impressions, all pose some risk to patients. Because of this risk, HDHA believes all Dental Assistants should be uniformly trained and certified via a third party (not their supervising dentist), which would allow this important profession to be monitored by the State, increasing the public's safety.

Currently, dental assistants in Hawai'i do not need any specific education or other qualifications and are unregulated by the State. In Hawai'i, Dental Assistants are identified in statute and administrative rule as unlicensed auxiliary personnel who perform supportive dental procedures under the direct supervision, direction, evaluation, and responsibility of a licensed dentist. Training for dental assistant duties is typically done on-the-job by the supervising dentist and/or another assistant, and varies widely from office to office and from dentist to dentist. This "on-the-job" method of training creates patient dental care with little, to no standardization. It also creates an environment where dental assistants have risked public safety by practicing beyond their allowable duties, due to the absence of, or limited knowledge of, the Hawaii Revised Statutes and Hawaii Administrative Rules.

The intent of this measure is clearly to increase public safety. By placing the allowable and non-allowable duties of Dental Assistants into the Hawaii Revised Statute, section 448 and requiring ALL dental assistants to complete standardized course work in a few key areas such as, Proper Infection Control, Radiography Technique and Risk, CPR, and Allowable/Non Allowable Duties for Dental Assistants in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statute and Hawaii Administrative Rules, HDHA feels this can be accomplished. Standardized knowledge in these areas would ultimately improve patient care and increase public safety.

HDHA thanks you for your time and consideration of **SB2584**. As always, The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association would like to convey our core desire that dentists, hygienists and dental



assistants continue to be integral members of the oral health team, and feel that the public is best served and protected when all members of the Oral Health workforce are properly educated, trained, and regulated. Thank you for your time.



Hawaii Dental Association

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., Thursday, January 30, 2020
Location: State Capitol Room 229
Re: Senate Bill 2584, Relating to Dental Assistants

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

The Hawaii Dental Association (HDA), a professional association comprised of approximately 950-member dentists, is respectfully opposed to SB 2584, relating to Dental Assistants. This bill establishes minimum requirements for dental assistants and clarifies the allowable and prohibited practices by dental assistants.

Regulation of dental assistants has been addressed in a state Legislative Auditor's report which encouraged a tiered regulatory approach. We support a tiered approach, while recognizing that there may be costs associated with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs implementing it which are not provided for in this measure. We have worked collaboratively with educators, regulators, and representatives of other organizations to address regulating dental assistants and are supportive of efforts to establish a working group comprised of these organizations and the Department of Health to ensure implementation and impacts can be considered prior to adoption.

We continue to support legislation aimed at enhancing and promoting oral health, utilizing the appropriate supervised integration of dental assistants in the dental team, that will ensure patient safety.

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 testify on SB 2584. Mahalo.

Petition to Submit Testimony in Support of SB2584

Petition summary and background:	<p>As Registered Dental Hygienists in the state of Hawaii, we SUPPORT SB2584. In State Statute, Dental Assistants have clearly delineated allowable/prohibited duties, but no regulation or licensing of Dental Assistants is required in the state of Hawaii.</p> <p>The majority of Hawaii Dental Assistants are trained on the job by other Dental Assistants or their supervising Dentist.</p> <p>According to the State auditor, several duties routinely performed by Dental Assistants in Hawaii can and do pose a reasonable risk of injury to patients. Because of this risk, we believe all Dental Assistants should be uniformly trained and/ or certified via the Dental Assisting National Board or another means measurable by the State.</p> <p>Upon completion of uniformly trained and/ or certification, the State can then properly regulate this important profession.</p>
Action petitioned for:	<p>We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to Support SB2584 requesting the Board of Dentistry (with input from HDA, HDHA and other dental-related entities) to adopt rules requiring uniformly trained and/ or certification of dental assistants by the Dental Assisting National Board or other State-approved certification for the public's safety.</p>

Printed name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Christopher Gamboa, RDH	gamboac@hawaii.edu			
Jennifer Takata, RDH	jen.takata@gmail.com			
Catherine Nakamura, RDH	katynak@yahoo.com			
Darlee Motosue, RDH	dkmotosue@yahoo.com			
Justin Larson, RDH	stanton6@hawaii.edu			

Printed name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Jason Wolf, RDH	wolfrdh@gmail.com			
Linda Austin, RDH	wlmtbooks@gmail.com			
Ariel Ita, RDH	ariel1214@yahoo.com			
Shyla Fermahin, RDH	shylakf@hawaii.edu			
Kristin Gastineau, RDH	rdh@gmail.com			
Teri Matsumura, RDH	tealent@aol.com			
Michelle Sherman, RDH	michelleraesherman@gmail.co			
Marcie Wong, RDH	marz656@hotmail.com			
Daphne Yoshikawa, RDH	aleasfrd@yahoo.com			
Lori Tamayori, RDH	misoyucky@gmail.com			
Lindsey Serapion Peralta, RDH	serapionperalta@gmail.com			
Rhonda Tengan, RDH	rhondah212@gmail.com			
Grace Gamboa, RDH	strwbrymochi@gmail.com			
Kim Schneider, RDH	kschneider@hawaii.rr.com			
Marilyn Nonaka, RDH	texaninhawaii@gmail.com			
Stacy Matsuyama Sekioka, RDH	hsekioka@gmail.com			
Tabitha Kukahiko, RDH	tabitha4avon@yahoo.com			
Holly Williams Hernandez, RDH	holly11williams@gmail.com			
Christina Rocetes, RDH	christinalc57@gmail.com			
Anna Akaka, RDH	annaakaka@gmail.com			
Candace Kawakami, RDH	denniskawakami@hawaii.rr.com			
Tori Clegg, RDH	tclegg09@gmail.com			
Alissa Lee, RDH	lalissalee@gmail.com			
Barbara Pfuhl, RDH	barbarapfuhl@gmail.com			
Adrienne Ragasa, RDH	ragasaadrienne@gmail.com			
Tracy Furukawa, RDH	alanandtracy@hawaiiantel.net			
Charlyn Loria, RDH	charlyn.loria@yahoo.com			
Theresa Brown, RDH	terri4brown@aol.com			
Mavis Gushiken, RDH	mavisg808@hawaii.rr.com			
Lauren Kam-Felipe, RDH	lkamfelipe@gmail.com			
Megan Akamine, RDH	akaminemegan@gmail.com			
Ashley Lopez, RDH	aklopezz@yahoo.com			

Printed name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Jessica Busby, RDH	jessica_mowder@hotmail.com			
Eileen Quinn, RDH	eileenquinn@gmail.com			
Yvonne Cobb, RDH	yfcobb@gmail.com			
Nahokuheleiakeahuolu Keala, RDH	nahokuheleiakeahuolu@gmail.com			
Jaimie Yuen, RDH	jiyuen001@hawaii.rr.com			
Kimi Yagi, RDH	kannyagi@gmail.com			
Natasha Galarza, RDH	fongn@hawaii.edu			
Nancy Tran, RDH	trann@hawaii.edu			
Kristine Aguon, UHHD student	kguon@hawaii.edu			
Katy Nakamura, RDH	katynak@yahoo.com			
Nora Macaraeg, RDH	noramac1500@yahoo.com			
Emeraude Thai, RDH	amythai@msn.com			
Dawn Hillary Pascual, RDH	dawnhillaryp@gmail.com			
Leanne Higa, RDH	higalea@hawaii.edu			
Kristine Osada, RDH	kmosada@gmail.com			
Jessica Lozano, RDH	jes_lozano@yahoo.com			
Gayle Chang, RDH	gchang50@gmail.com			
Mikiel Lina Agoy, RDH	m.linardh@gmail.com			
Lisa Forbes, RDH	lisa.forbes411@gmail.com			
Christen Coloma, RDH	christen.coloma@gmail.com			
Diana Santiago, RDH	dianafs7@hawaii.edu			
James Ruiz, RDH	james.amdc@gmail.com			
Michelle Ah Sam, RDH	mdahsam@hawaii.edu			
Kaylee Rafol, UHHD student	kayleer2@hawaii.edu			
Lisa Lee, UHHD student	lee48@hawaii.edu			
Julee Otori, RDH	juleeomori@gmail.com			
Gerraine Hignite, RDH	gerrainehignite@gmail.com			
Cassandra Miyashiro, RDH	cmiyashiro21@gmail.com			
Sandra Boggecs, RDH	girlfriend1969@aol.com			
NeShone Gardner, RDH	kiananay@gmail.com			
Lehua Bolton, RDH	lehuakaala@yahoo.com			
Yvette Like, RDH	kaiulanu67@yahoo.com			

Printed name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Vicki Phan, RDH	vickikuu@gmail.com			
Jackolyn Valenzuela, RDH	aloha.rdh@juno.com			
Kathy Oide, RDH	gkoide@hotmail.com			
Nicole Pikini, RDH	nicole.pikini64@gmail.com			
Nancy Wu, RDH	cmfact742002@gmail.com			
Mindy Otake, RDH	mindybatt54@gmail.com			
Tami Ryan, RDH	tamiryan808@gmail.com			
Lenora Marks, RDH	leimarks@yahoo.com			
Janet Ancheta, RDH	janetancheta9@gmail.com			
Joycelyn Swan, RDH	jwan02@hotmail.com			
Beverly Duyan, RDH	duyan@hawaii.edu			
Dollcy Gebauer, RDH	dollcy@lonihomes.com			
Antonia Harrison, RDH	ninasant@hotmail.com			
Melinda Lau, RDH	mellau@gmail.com			
Jennifer Pirie, RDH	jrprie@gmail.com			
Loreizl Cahinhinan, RDH	loreizl1@gmail.com			
Raynette Kodama, RDH	raynettekodama@hawaii.rr.co			
Kristine Dela Cuesta, RDH	Kristine_delacuesta@yahoo.com			
Noelani Greene, RDH	jusnoe@aol.com			
Ellie Kelley-Miyashiro, RDH	memiyashiro@gmail.com			
Michelle Tui, RDH	mctui@westhawaiiichc.org			

Printed name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date

[illegible]

[illegible]

Printed name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date

swilhitedds@gmail.com

LATE

Sean Holliday, DDS, MS
Holliday Orthodontics
1245 Kuala St. Ste 110,
Pearl City 96782

January 30, 2019

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: State Capitol Conference Room 229
Re: Opposition to SB 2584, Relating to Dental Assistants

The Honorable Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Legislature:

Senate Bill 2584I establishes minimum requirements for dental assistants and clarifies the allowable and prohibited practices by dental assistants. I am asking that this bill be deferred in favor of a bill that would establish a Task Force to address regulating dental assistants.

Thank you.

January 26, 2020

Wayne S. H. Leong, DDS

LATE

To: Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Date: 9:30 a.m., January 30, 2020
Location: Room 229
Re: Senate Bill 2584, Relating to Dental Assistants

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

I am writing in opposition to SB 2584, relating to Dental Assistants which establishes minimum requirements for dental assistants and clarifies the allowable and prohibited practices by dental assistants.

Through the Hawaii Dental Association, we have worked stakeholder organizations to address regulating dental assistants and are supportive of efforts to establish a working group. Please defer this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB 2584. Mahalo.

LATE

Jaclyn Lum, DDS
1109 Young St. Ste 106
Honolulu, HI 96814

Hearing: 9:30 a.m., January 30, 2020
Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health Committee
Re: Senate Bill 2584, Relating to Dental Assistants
Position: Oppose

Please defer this measure. We support efforts to establish a working group to address legislation pertaining to dental assistants.

Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

Mon,
Jan 27,
6:00 AM
(1 day
ago)

Dr. Steve Wilhite

I am writing to submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 2584, relating to dental assistants.

Regulating dental assistants is an important topic to promoting improved oral health for Hawaii. Efforts to establish regulations would benefit from the input of stakeholder organizations through a Task Force or working group which could address the implementation challenges of establishing educational requirements.