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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's oral health  
2 system has been ailing for decades and has struggled to meet the  
3 growing needs of its population statewide, especially those with  
4 health and social disparities, such as Native Hawaiians, Pacific  
5 Islanders, persons with low incomes, persons living in rural  
6 communities, and persons with disabilities.

7           The legislature further finds that there are currently more  
8 than 288,000 recipients of adult dental benefits across Hawaii.  
9 The legislature also finds that statewide emergency department  
10 data analyzed from calendar years 2016-2020 shows that  
11 significant numbers of Hawaii's adult population who receive  
12 medicaid use emergency facilities as their "dental care home",  
13 which is an ineffective method of dental care and a misuse of  
14 resources.

15           Furthermore, the legislature finds that estimates indicate  
16 that the fourteen federally qualified health centers in Hawaii,  
17 the State's safety-net care system, served almost forty thousand



1 patients of all ages, not all of whom receive medicaid  
2 assistance, statewide in calendar year 2021 for dental care  
3 needs. Dental care in federally qualified health centers for  
4 medicaid recipients may be underreported, since the encounters  
5 are "uninsured", due to prior emergency-only medicaid coverage.

6 Moreover, the legislature finds that there are a total of  
7 three hundred thirty-nine active medicaid dentists, which is  
8 defined as filing at least one claim in the last six months,  
9 providing dental care for medicaid recipients. This total  
10 includes twenty active dentists at federally qualified health  
11 centers. Only eleven per cent of Hawaii's dental providers  
12 serve one hundred or more persons who receive medicaid  
13 assistance, likely due in part to the fact that recipients have  
14 had access to emergency-only dental benefits since 2009.

15 The purpose of this Act is to expand access to dental care  
16 by:

- 17 (1) Adding "community health center" to the list of  
18 eligible organizations at which those with a community  
19 service license may practice;
- 20 (2) Allowing dental hygiene and dental college graduates  
21 who have graduated from educational programs .



1 recognized by the American Dental Association  
2 Commission on Dental Accreditation to apply for  
3 temporary or community service licenses;  
4 (3) Including passage of the Integrated National Board of  
5 Dental Examination within five years of the date of  
6 request as proof of eligibility for a community  
7 service license; and  
8 (4) Expanding eligibility for a community service licensee  
9 to practice dentistry to those candidates who have  
10 passed the Integrated National Board Dental  
11 Examination within five years of the date of request.

12 SECTION 2. Section 447-1.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

14 "(a) The board of dentistry may issue, without examination,  
15 a community service license to practice dental hygiene in the  
16 employment of a federally qualified health center, Native  
17 Hawaiian health care system, community health center, or post-  
18 secondary dental auxiliary training program accredited by the  
19 American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.  
20 Community service licensees under this section shall abide by



1 the requirements and conditions placed upon those fully licensed  
2 under this chapter.

3 Eligible candidates shall:

4 (1) Provide copies of documentation and credentials that  
5 include but are not limited to:

6 (A) A diploma or certificate of graduation from a  
7 dental hygiene college accredited or recognized  
8 by the American Dental Association Commission on  
9 Dental Accreditation, recognized and approved by  
10 the board; and

11 (B) Either of the following:

12 (i) A certificate or other evidence satisfactory  
13 to the board of having passed the  
14 examination of the National Board Dental  
15 Hygiene Examination, within five years of  
16 the date of request; or

17 (ii) Evidence of active clinical dental hygiene  
18 practice of not less than one thousand hours  
19 per year for the three years immediately  
20 prior to the date of request;



- 1           (2) Provide a copy of an active, unrestricted dental
- 2           hygiene practice license from another state;
- 3           (3) Disclose to the board of dentistry all previous and
- 4           pending legal or regulatory action relating to claims
- 5           of malpractice, personal, or professional misconduct;
- 6           and
- 7           (4) Pay applicable registration fees, which shall be one
- 8           half of the prevailing biennial registration fee for
- 9           dental hygienists.

10 No person who after July 2, 2004, has failed to pass the license  
11 examination administered under this chapter [~~may~~] shall be  
12 issued a community service dental hygiene license."

13           SECTION 3. Section 448-9.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

15           "(a) The board of dentistry may issue, without  
16 examination, a community service license to practice dentistry  
17 in the employment of the department of health, a federally  
18 qualified health center, Native Hawaiian health systems center,  
19 community health center, or post-secondary dental auxiliary  
20 training program accredited by the American Dental Association  
21 Commission on Dental Accreditation. Community service licensees



1 under this section shall abide by the requirements and  
2 conditions placed upon those fully licensed under this chapter.

3 Eligible candidates shall:

4 (1) Provide copies of documentation and credentials that  
5 include but are not limited to:

6 (A) A diploma or certificate of graduation from a  
7 dental college accredited or recognized by the  
8 American Dental Association Commission on Dental  
9 Accreditation, recognized and approved by the  
10 board; and

11 (B) Either of the following:

12 (i) A certificate or other evidence satisfactory  
13 to the board of having passed part II of the  
14 National Board Dental Examination or the  
15 Integrated National Board Dental Examination  
16 within five years of the date of request; or

17 (ii) Evidence of active practice of clinical  
18 dentistry of not less than one thousand  
19 hours per year for the three years  
20 immediately prior to the date of request;



- 1           (2) Provide a copy of an active, unrestricted dental
- 2           practice license from another state;
- 3           (3) Disclose to the board of dentistry all previous and
- 4           pending legal or regulatory action relating to claims
- 5           of malpractice, or personal or professional
- 6           misconduct; and
- 7           (4) Pay applicable registration fees, which shall be one
- 8           half of the prevailing biennial registration fee for
- 9           dentistry.

10 No person who after July 2, 2004, has failed to pass the license  
11 examination administered under this chapter shall have the  
12 benefit of a community service dental license."

13           SECTION 4. Section 448-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

15           "[+] (b) [+] The board of dentistry may issue a temporary  
16 license without examination to any person otherwise qualified to  
17 be examined, who is enrolled in a post-doctoral residency  
18 program that is accredited and recognized by the American Dental  
19 Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. Eligible  
20 candidates shall include graduates from a dental college  
21 accredited or recognized by the American Dental Association



1 Commission on Dental Accreditation, recognized and approved by  
2 the board. The temporary license shall authorize the person to  
3 whom the license is issued to practice dentistry exclusively  
4 under the auspices of the dental residency program and shall be  
5 in force until the earliest of the following occurs:

6 (1) The date the person completes or leaves the residency  
7 program; or

8 (2) The date on which the board revokes the temporary  
9 license;

10 provided that the board may revoke the temporary license at any  
11 time for cause."

12 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.  
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**Report Title:**

Dentists; Dental Hygienists; Community Service Licenses;  
Temporary Licenses; Qualifications; Community Health Centers

**Description:**

Adds "community health center" to the list of eligible organizations at which those with a community service license may practice. Allows dental hygiene and dental college graduates who have graduated from educational programs recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation to apply for temporary or community service licenses. Expands eligibility for a community service license to practice dentistry to those candidates who have passed the Integrated National Board Dental Examination within five years of the date of request. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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