

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2334

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2476

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 2476 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to authorize licensed dental hygienists to perform preventative dental sealant screenings and apply dental sealants on individuals, under certain conditions, in a Department of Education school-based oral health program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Education, Board of Dentistry, University of Hawai'i System, Department of Health, Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association, Hawaii Dental Service, Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition, AlohaCare, Hawaii Dental Association, and forty-two individuals.

Your Committee finds that dental sealants applied to chewing surfaces of molars are the most effective preventative strategy for tooth decay. In the 2022-2023 school year, the Seal Away Decay program provided oral screenings to more than two thousand second grade students in sixty-eight schools on Oahu, Maui, and Kauai. Of the screened students, sixty percent received sealants and sixty-five students were referred to a dentist for urgent care. Additionally, the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program, a partnership between the Department of Education and the



Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, places school nurses and health technicians throughout public schools to coordinate dental health services, including screenings and preventative sealant clinics. Your Committee further finds that providing dental sealants through school-based oral health programs is a cost-effective strategy to reach low-income children, who are at a higher risk of developing tooth decay. Therefore, this measure takes a proactive approach to childhood tooth decay by expanding and improving access to oral health care for Hawaii's keiki.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2476 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

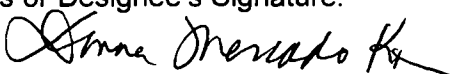
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,


MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
 Committee on Education
 EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB2476	Committee Referral: EDU, CPN	Date: 2/9/2024		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIDANI, Michelle N. (C)	/			
KIM, Donna Mercado (VC)	/			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	/			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"				/
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes