

Testimony of the Board of Dentistry

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 10, 2026
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 579, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF DENTISTRY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JULIE TANABE GOO,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chrissy Hoogland, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Dentistry (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Dr. Julie Tanabe Goo's reappointment to the Board as a licensee member.

Dr. Tanabe Goo has served on the Board since 2026 and has attended all scheduled meetings since her appointment. She has been in private practice in Honolulu since 1996 and has also worked on a part-time basis at various dental clinics throughout Hawaii. She holds a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Missouri.

Dr. Tanabe Goo is a multi-year recipient of the Honolulu Magazine "Best Dentist" award and is an active member of several professional organizations, including the American Dental Association, Hawaii Dental Association, Honolulu County Dental Society, and the Oahu Professional Dental Seminar Study Group.

Her long-standing clinical expertise, dedication to the community, and commitment to the dental profession provide a valuable perspective to the Board. For these reasons, the Board strongly supports her reappointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaii Dental Association

Time/Date: 9:30 am, April 10, 2026

Location: State Capitol Room 229

Committee: Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

Re: GM 579, Nomination of Dr. Julie Tanabe Goo to serve on the Board of Dentistry

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Dental Association (HDA), we respectfully offer our support for GM 579, nominating Dr. Julie Tanabe Goo to serve on the Hawai'i State Board of Dentistry.

Dr. Tanabe Goo brings nearly three decades of clinical experience in general dentistry, having served patients in Honolulu since 1996 through her private practice, Julie Tanabe Goo, DDS, Inc. Her long-standing commitment to patient care reflects a deep dedication to maintaining high standards of clinical excellence and advancing oral health in our community. In addition to her private practice, Dr. Tanabe Goo currently serves as a dental consultant to Hawaii Dental Service, where she is responsible for processing and adjudicating dental insurance claims. This role provides her with valuable insight into coverage policies, utilization patterns, and the administrative aspects of dental care—perspectives that will be highly beneficial to the Board as it considers regulatory and consumer protection matters.

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. Our organization is a key health policy stakeholder, representing providers of oral health services on every island. HDA's top priority is the care of our patients and the health of Hawaii residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this nomination.

Honorable Josh Green
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers – State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808)586-0034

November 24, 2025

Aloha Dr Green,

My name is Steve Kumasaka, a General Dentist from Kaneohe, and I am pleased to write a recommendation for Julie T. Tanabe DDS to the Hawaii State Dental Board of Examiners.

I have known Dr Tanabe since she returned to the islands after completing Dental School. She is a great friend and colleague. We even have gotten a chance to do dental work on each other :). Dr Julie is an awesome clinician and great communicator.

Dr Tanabe is a consummate professional. Outside of her dental practice, she is a wife and mother. She has worked for years at HDS as a Dental Consultant. In this role, she must communicate with colleagues to clarify dental insurance issues. In addition, she worked as an attending at Queen's Hospital. I also had the pleasure of being in a Study Club with Dr Tanabe, where she displayed leadership in several officer positions, including President.

It has been a pleasure to be her friend and colleague for so many years . I am sure she will be a great addition to the Board. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Steven A. Kumasaka, DDS
46-030 Kamehameha Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744
(808)247-2240

Honorable Josh Green
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers – State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808)586-0034

4/9/26

Dear Dr. Josh Green,

I am a pediatric dentist from Kidshine Pediatric Dental Group and a Dental Consultant with Hawaii Dental Service and it is with great pleasure that I write this letter endorsing the application of Julie T. Tanabe, D.D.S. for the position on the Hawaii State Dental Board of Examiners.

We have been colleagues and friends for close to 30 years here in Hawaii. We are also presently co-workers at Hawaii Dental Service, serving as Dental Consultants. Dr. Tanabe has proven to be a reliable and responsible individual. She consistently shows a strong work ethic and commitment to the dental profession. In addition, she is highly adaptable, quickly adjusting to new situations and challenges, and excelling under pressure.

She is extremely well liked among her peers and always has a friendly way of connecting with others. She possesses excellent communication and organizational skills making her well suited to take on this Board position. Part of her position as a dental consultant is dealing with dentist who are unhappy with the denial of a submitted claim. Dr. Tanabe handles these situations with class and grace, providing the dentist clear, concise, and accurate explanations.

I have always found her to be honest, loyal and hard-working. I am honored to have known her for all these years. I am confident that she will make a valuable addition to your Board. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me for details.

Mark Sumikawa DDS, MS
1221 Kapiolani Blvd., #1221
Honolulu, HI 96814

GM-579

Submitted on: 4/10/2026 7:59:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/16/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Hu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Governor Green,

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Julie Tanabe for the Hawaii State Board of Dentistry.

As a fellow Dental Consultant for Hawaii Dental Service, I have worked with Dr. Tanabe for approximately five years. She is a fair, diligent, and knowledgeable adjudicator of dental claims. Energetic and articulate, she is pleasant to work with.

Her professional experience includes current ownership of a solo general practice for 30 years and prior part-time positions in Hilo and the Queen's Medical Center.

As a former BoD member, I believe Dr. Tanabe may bring unique clinical and insurance-related perspectives to the meetings. Additionally, she has voiced a keen interest in dental licensure and administration of the ADEX licensing exam.

Please contact me if you would like to further discuss this recommendation.

Karen I. Hu, DDS

Robert G. Sherman, DMD
Captain (ret), DC, United States Navy
Diplomate, American Board of Oral Medicine
rsherman1955@gmail.com
808-381-3704

To Whom It May Concern,

It is an honor and privilege to recommend Dr. Julie Tanabe as a member of the Board of Dentistry. I have known her for over sixteen years as a professional colleague and friend and through her employment at Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) where I served as the Dental Director for over 14 years. I can wholeheartedly state that she is a dedicated dentist and team player who possesses the highest quality clinical, ethical, and moral standards.

As a former Hawaii Board of Dentistry member, I can also unequivocally state that she is extremely knowledgeable of current dental issues in Hawaii and is dedicated to process improvement and increasing the overall quality and access to care in the state of Hawaii

Dr. Tanabe's diverse private practice experiences coupled with her outstanding interpersonal skills, collegial personality, and inherent desire to succeed will contribute significantly to the success of the Board of Dentistry. She has my strongest personal recommendation for appointment to the Board. Please feel free to contact me for any further questions or comments.

With much aloha,

Robert G. Sherman, DMD

GM-579

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 3:10:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/16/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Roufs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a retired private-practice general dentist in Newton, KS and it is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Julie T. Tanabe DDS for the position on the Hawaii State Dental Board of Examiners.

I have known Dr. Tanabe over 30 years. We have been friends and colleagues since being classmates at the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Dentistry. She has proven to be a reliable and responsible individual. She consistently shows a strong work ethic and commitment in the dental profession. In addition, she is highly adaptable, quickly adjusting to new situations and challenges, and excelling under pressure.

She is well liked among her peers and always has a friendly way of connecting with others. She possesses excellent communication and organizational skills making her well suited to take on this Board position.

I have always found her to be honest, loyal and hard-working. I am honored to have known her for all these years. I am confident that she will make a valuable addition to your Board. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me for details.

Sincerely,

Brett A. Roufs, D.D.S.

327 Lynn Lane, Newton KS 67114 / P: (316) 283-08478

Honorable Josh Green
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers – State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808)586-0034

November 25, 2025

Dear Dr. Josh Green,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Julie T. Tanabe, DDS. We have been friends and colleagues for over 30 years. We met at the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Dentistry.

I have always known her to be an ambitious and highly motivated person. Dr. Tanabe possesses excellent communication and organizational skills, making her well-suited to take on responsibilities as a Board member. I am confident that she will navigate the responsibilities with integrity and enthusiasm.

I have always found her to be loyal, honest and hard working. She is well liked amongst her peers, and I believe she will make a valuable contribution to the Board of Examiners. Thank you for considering my recommendation. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Jane M. Lilly, DDS

2100 Indian Hills Drive

Sioux City, IA 51104

janedds99@gmail.com