



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## House Committee on Health

### SB933 SD2, Relating to Temporary Licensure of Dentists

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health

March 24, 2009

1 **Department's Position:** The Department strongly supports this Administration-sponsored measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this proposal is to amend Sections 448-9.6 (a)(e) and 448-  
4 12 (a)(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to allow for the community service licensure of dentists who are  
5 employed by the Department of Health and amends the temporary dentistry licensure statutes as they  
6 apply to the Department of Health. SD2 represents a shift in language from the original proposal and  
7 was arrived at through discussion with the Hawaii Dental Association and in consideration of testimony  
8 submitted by the Hawaii State Board of Dental Examiners. The Department shares the concerns of the  
9 Legislature and the community over limited access to basic dental care, particularly among persons with  
10 disabilities. With the amendments proposed in SD2, the Department anticipates that we will be able to  
11 create additional training opportunities to enhance access to dental care for disabled persons. We also  
12 anticipate being able to recruit additional dental care providers licensed in other states who are willing to  
13 work in Hawaii in response to the needs of our disabled communities. Given the opportunities this  
14 proposal creates for the Department to help assure access to needed basic dental care among our most  
15 vulnerable populations, we strongly support this proposal.

16 Thank you the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2009

Tuesday, March 24, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 933, S.D.2, RELATING TO TEMPORARY  
LICENSURE OF DENTISTS.**

TO THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Jeffrey Miyazawa, D.D.S., Chair of the Board of Dental Examiners ("Board"). The Board supports the intent of S.B. No. 933, S.D.2, to provide for a means of licensure to practice dentistry while in the employment of or under contract with the Department of Health.

The purpose of S.B. No. 933, S.D.2 is to provide a temporary license to practice dentistry to dentists who are under contract with the Department of Health to conduct dental education and training. The bill also clarifies that a community service license to practice dentistry may be issued to a person employed by the Department of Health. The Board understands that there is a need for dental care services for residents in underserved communities or populations statewide, particularly to persons with disabilities, persons with mental illness, and the aging population. There is also a need to educate and train dentists to treat these populations. Given ongoing, unmet oral health needs in many communities or populations, the Department of Health would be able to increase its dental services and ensure access to basic dental care.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on S.B. No. 933, S.D.2.