

**HB 2304**

**Proposed SD1**

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2010**

Wednesday, March 31, 2010  
10:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2304, H.D.1, PROPOSED S.D.1,  
RELATING TO LICENSURE.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Jeffrey Miyazawa, D.D.S., Chair of the Board of Dental Examiners ("Board"). The Board appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of amending House Bill No. 2304, H.D.1, Proposed S.D.1, Relating to Licensure.

Your Committee previously passed Senate Bill No. 2700, S.D.1, Relating to Dental Licensure Examination, which would allow passage of the American Board of Dental Examiners ("ADEX") or the Central Regional Dental Testing Service ("CRDTS") national dental examination for licensure. Your Committee also urged the Board and the Hawaii Dental Association ("HDA") to work together towards agreeing on a bill. Accordingly, both the Board and HDA have agreed to support passage of the CRDTS examination for licensure of dentists in Hawaii. H.B. No. 2304, H.D.1, Proposed S.D.1 reflects this agreement.

Moreover, the Board recommends that the bill be amended in Section 3 to grandfather candidates taking the ADEX exam in Hawaii on July 17-18, 2010 in fairness to those who are trying to become licensed in Hawaii under the current requirements. Further, in fairness to the students and residents currently attending ADEX schools and

who are in the curriculum integrated format ("CIF") process of the ADEX exam, the Board recommends that they be grandfathered until June 30, 2013.

Should this bill not pass, there would be drastic ramifications to Hawaii students attending the CRDTS schools. It is our understanding that there are about 20 students attending CRDTS schools and those in their senior year of schooling are in the CIF process of the CRDTS exam (emphasis added). Since the statute currently requires passage of the ADEX exam, not passing this bill will require those CRDTS students to take and pass the ADEX exam to become licensed in Hawaii as we would not be able to accept passage of the CRDTS national dental exam that our students are now taking through the CIF process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of amending H.B. No. 2304, H.D.1, Proposed S.D.1.

Hawaii State Legislature  
State Senate  
Committee on Commerce  
and Consumer Protection

State Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
State Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Wednesday, March 31, 2010, 10:00 a.m. Room 229  
House Bill 2304, HD 1, SD 1 Proposed Relating to Licensure

Honorable Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair David Y. Ige and  
members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

My name is Russel Yamashita and I am the legislative representative for the Hawaii Dental Association(HDA) and its 965 member dentists. I appreciate the opportunity to testify regarding of House Bill 2304, HD 1, SD 1 Proposed Relating to Licensure. The proposed draft before you today would seek to replace the current ADEX examination with the CRDTS examination for dental licensure in Hawaii.

The HDA will support the proposed change provided that the following conditions are met. First, the current examination, ADEX, is being taken by dental students in their last years of their schooling at post graduate colleges. The HDA has requested that the ADEX examination be permitted to be recognized for a minimum of two additional years in order not to burden the students who have taken portions of the ADEX examination while in school.

Second, due to the problems associated with the legislative process and the HDA requests that the any bill changing the examination requirement at this time address the complete understanding of the HDA and the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners who have been in discussion on this matter since December of 2009. In plain english, the HDA will support this bill only if it is a "clean" bill that only addresses the agreement to change the examination from ADEX to CRDTS with a grandfather clause for those dental students who have taken portions of the ADEX examination in anticipation of seeking licensure in Hawaii. Any other changes of the dental licensure laws, whether in the proposed draft or any subsequent conference committee draft will be opposed by the HDA. The HDA reserves the right to oppose any attempt to amend or revise this bill should it be subject to any potential modification in any manner.

Finally, in order to seek a amicable resolution of this issue with the Board of Dental Examiners, the HDA respectfully request that a "clean" version of the agreed upon provisions of this proposed legislation be forwarded to the House of Representatives for agreement and sent to the Governor for approval.

The HDA and I thank you for this opportunity to testify regarding the proposed draft of this bill.

Hawaii State Legislature  
State Senate  
Committee on commerce and Consumer Protection

State Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
State Senator David Y. Ige, Vice chair  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Wednesday, March 31, 2010, 10:00a.m. Room229  
House Bill 2304, HD 1, SD1 Proposed Relating to Licensure

Honorable Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair David Y. Ige and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

My name is Dr. Stanwood H. Kanna and I am a practicing dentist on the island of Kauai. I am opposed to HB2304 HD1, SD1. I have been actively involved in dental licensure examinations since 1994. I have served on the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners from 1999 – 2007. As Chairman of the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners in 2005 we removed the old Independent State Dental Licensure Exam and adopted the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) National Exam. Hawaii became one of the leaders in the national movement for a Uniform National Dental and Dental Hygiene Exam through ADEX which would create one standard of care and freedom of movement. The ADEX National exam has been administered in Hawaii for the last five years at the Pearl Harbor Naval Dental Clinic.

Since 2006 I have served on the ADEX Board of Directors as the representative of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of ADEX. The 2<sup>nd</sup> District has eleven States within its jurisdiction and Hawaii is one of them. I also sit on the ADEX Exam Committee for Hawaii and am the chair of the ADEX Quality Assurance committee. I have helped in the development of the ADEX National Dental Licensure Exam since its beginning. I also sat on the CRDTS (Central Regional Dental Testing Service) Exam Review committee and its Board. By eliminating the ADEX Dental Licensure Exam and replacing it with the CRDTS Dental Licensure Exam as Hawaii's initial dental licensure exam you will in effect :

1. Be accepting a new CRDTS Dental Licensure Exam that has yet to complete one full year exam cycle and has no Technical Report. This is critical because all licensure exams (dental, medical, law...etc.) are tested for its validity and reliability by analyzing exam data after every exam year or cycle. This analysis is called a "Technical Report". A licensure examination not being able to produce a technical report will not know if its examination is valid and reliable within the construct of the examination. Dental exam cycles usually end in August. ADEX has four years of data proving its validity and reliability, CRDTS has none. In addition CRDTS has been unable to provide data for analysis and inclusion in the ADEX technical report for two years due to IT issues which forced CRDTS to hand score examinations.

2. Be accepting an examination that will be given in 6 (six) dental schools to approximately 400 dental candidates. The ADEX National Dental Licensure Exam is given in 23 (twenty three) dental schools with well over 2000 dental candidates taking the exam, therefore reducing the potential dentists applicant pool by 80%.

3. Be accepting an examination that is missing a critical component in its construct as identified in a National workforce analysis. The number one "criticality" or the most critical procedure in dentistry that has the greatest impact on health and welfare must be examined in a dental licensure exam. This identified procedure is "Treatment Planning and diagnosis and medical considerations". ADEX has a computer based exam called the DSCE (Dental Simulation Computer Exam) which examines for the applicability of Treatment planning and diagnosis and medical consideration. The new CRDTS exam does not have the DSCE, but relies upon the National boards part 2 which has been shown to be different and does not test for the application of Treatment Planning and diagnosis and Medical considerations as substantiated by a study done by the ADA and conducted by Knapp and Associates in 1999.

4. Be giving up an examination that is developed by the largest Dental Test Developing Organization in the Nation. ADEX has 27 State Dental Boards as members, and enjoys the widest recognition, with 35 States accepting the examination for licensure.

The CRDTS organization withdrew from the uniform national exam process in June of 2009. It will no longer administer the ADEX National Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Exam. The bottom line fact for Hawaii is that we currently have a proven valid and reliable dental licensure exam that is currently being administered in Hawaii. Just because the CRDTS organization does not want to administer the ADEX Dental Exam in Hawaii does not mean that we throw away the exam. Some other test administration entity will step into its place. **It is the exam that is important, not who administrates the exam.** At some moment in time our examining community has to live up to the high-minded rhetoric that they use that they are protecting the public, and we need to stop sacrificing progress towards a uniform national licensure examination in dentistry and dental hygiene on the altar of personal political agendas and biases. Hawaii is in the forefront of innovation and progress in dental and dental hygiene examinations through ADEX. ADEX is a well organized and financially stable 5013C corporation whose sole purpose is to develop a psychometrically sound uniform national dental and dental hygiene licensure examination.

Sincerely,

Stanwood H. Kanna DDS