

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2011

Friday, February 11, 2011
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1053, RELATING TO NATIONAL DENTAL
HYGIENE EXAMINATIONS.**

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 appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1053, Relating to National Dental Hygiene Examinations.

The purpose of House Bill No. 1053 is to specify in the statute that passage of the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination is a requirement for licensure as a dental hygienist in Hawaii. In addition, technical non-substantive amendments are also proposed.

The National Board Dental Hygiene Examination is a didactic examination developed and administered by the American Dental Association Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations and is required for licensure by all states. This examination is usually taken prior to graduation during a dental hygiene student's last year at an accredited dental hygiene school.

The National Board Dental Hygiene Examination is a pre-requisite requirement, similar to the requirement to be a graduate from an accredited dental hygiene school. It is not the same type of examination and is a separate examination as provided in

subsections 447-1(b) and (c). The examinations referenced in subsections 447-1(b) and (c) are clinical licensure examinations to primarily test an applicant's clinical skills in the practice of dental hygiene.

Although specified as a requirement for licensure as a dental hygienist in the Board's administrative rules, due to an oversight this provision was never enacted in the statute.

Therefore, this bill would enact in the statute and clearly provide statutory authority for the requirement to pass the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination for licensure of dental hygienists, similarly as required by all other states.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1053.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH HEARING

HB 1053

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF GAYLE RUBINO,
ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION**

Chair Rep Yamane and Members, Aloha,

My name is Gayle Rubino, RDH, BA, MSDH. I am the current President of the Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association and giving testimony on behalf of HDHA.

We are in SUPPORT of Bill HB 1053

I would like to thank the members of the Committee on Health for hearing this testimony.

The National Board Dental Hygiene Examination is a comprehensive exam of a candidate's knowledge of the applied sciences relating to dental hygiene and the reasoning ability of the candidate to evaluate case studies and apply the dental hygiene process of care. This examination is a valid indicator of a potential candidate's intellectual readiness for the practice of dental hygiene.

The American Dental Association, The American Dental Hygienists' Association, the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, and nearly 100% of Dental Hygiene programs in the United States are in agreement that candidates for Dental Hygiene Licensure must successfully pass the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination.

We unequivocally support HB 1053 and urge all members of the Committee on Health to vote in favor of this bill.

Respectfully,

Gayle Rubino

Kailua

Tel. No

HAWAII DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
REPRESENTATIVE RYAN YAMANE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE DEE MORIKAWA, VICE CHAIR

DATE: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2011
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: CONFERENCE RM 329

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1053

TO the Honorable Representative Yamane, Chair, the Honorable Representative Morikawa, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee.

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists's Association offers written testimony in support of HB 1053 which clarifies language in the Statute regarding the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination. The HDHA recognizes that this Examination is the standard written examination utilized by states in determining the didactic preparation for licensure. This Exam is currently utilized in Hawaii but the language in this Bill codifies it.

Many changes in the Dental Hygiene Examination and licensure process have taken place over the last several years regarding a National Standardized Clinical Exam as well. The language in this Bill clarifies and reflects the changes which have occurred.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer supportive testimony for HB 1053.

Sierra Spruce, RDH
Past President HDHA
Regulation and Practice Chair