

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2012

Friday, January 27, 2012
9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1876, RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS.

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

My name is Marilyn Nonaka, dental hygienist member of the Board of Dental Examiners ("Board"). The Board appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1876, Relating to Dental Hygienists, with comments.

The purpose of House Bill No. 1876 is to require a dental hygienist license to be prominently displayed at all times in the office where the dental hygienist is employed or practices.

Prominently displaying the dental hygiene license in the place of employment would contribute to the public safety by:

- Demonstrating to the public seeking dental hygiene services that the professional is licensed and qualified in the State of Hawaii to provide preventive and therapeutic services.
- Assuring employer dentists that the dental hygienist in their employ meets the professional standards for licensure as established by the State of Hawaii.

It is unclear if the intent is to require displaying the original Certificate of License in the office, but the Committee should be aware that there are many dental hygienists who are employed in more than one dental office. Therefore, displaying copies of the Certificate of License would be more practical.

Moreover, a Certificate of License signifies that the dental hygienist received a license in the State of Hawaii. However, it does not reflect whether the license is current or not. In addition to the Certificate of License, a dental hygienist is issued a pocket I.D. card at initial licensure and renewal thereafter to indicate the expiration date of the license. Also, the pocket I.D. card reflects any special privileges, such as intra-oral infiltration and intra-oral block anesthesia, that a dental hygienist has qualified to perform. Therefore, the Committee may wish to consider requiring that the pocket I.D. card be displayed.

Furthermore, please be aware that prominently displaying the license of the dentist in the office is not required. Therefore, the Committee may wish to consider having the same requirements for a dentist based on the reasons cited above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1876.



American
Dental
Hygienists'
Association

Hawaii

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

Jill Rethman, RDH, BA
President - Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association

Friday, January 27, 2012

Support for H.B. 1876, Relating to Dental Hygienists

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association is the organization representing dental hygiene professionals in the state of Hawaii, and is a constituent of the American Dental Hygienists' Association. We strongly support H.B. 1876, Relating to Dental Hygienists, which would require that dental hygienists practicing in Hawaii prominently display the dental hygiene license in the office where she or he practices or is employed.

A dental hygienist is an educated oral healthcare professional who receives licensure after successfully completing an accredited dental hygiene program and passing the National Board Examination in Dental Hygiene, as well as a clinical board exam. Accredited dental hygiene programs require an average of 2,910 clock hours of curriculum. This includes 654 clock hours of supervised clinical dental hygiene instruction. A dental hygienist is licensed to perform specific oral healthcare duties, such as debridement (i.e. tooth cleaning and polishing) procedures and is trained in such duties. Therefore, for the health and safety of the public it's important that patients know a licensed dental hygienist is providing their dental hygiene services.

Thirty-two states already mandate that a dental hygiene license be prominently displayed in the office. Hawaii can further ensure that its people are receiving optimum care by instituting this requirement as well.

Thanks for all you do to protect the health of Hawaii's people, and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.



American
Dental
Hygienists'
Association

Hawaii

Re: H.B. 1876
Committee: House Health Committee
Date: January 27, 2012
Time: 9:00 am
Room: Conference Room 329
Number of copies needed:

Dear Honorable Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair and Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is **in support of H.B. 1876**, which would require dental hygienists, in Hawaii, to prominently display their license to practice, at all times, in every office in which they are employed to practice.

As a minimum, this measure would serve to inform the public of their clinicians' legal qualifications to safely provide dental hygiene services. Dental hygienists are:

- 1) College educated with an Associate degree or Bachelor degree as entry level;
- 2) Required to pass a written National examination;
- 3) Required to have their skills clinically tested on live patients;
- 4) Required to meet licensure criteria; and
- 5) Required to fulfill and maintain continuing education criteria.

Requiring the display of licensure is prudent and reasonable (as would be the display of dental hygiene educational degree). Thirty-three other states require display of dental hygiene license to practice as a minimal public safety standard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Brucato-Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diane Brucato-Thomas, RDH, EF, BS, FAADH
President, American Academy of Dental Hygiene, 2010-12
Past President, Hawai'i Dental Hygienists' Association, 2009
First Recipient, ADHA Master Clinician Award 2008
First Recipients, RDH Sunstar Award of Distinction, 2002
HDHA Outstanding Member 1999, 2003; Dedicated Member 2008, 2011
Former Anesthesia Examiner, Western Regional Examining Board

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 2:14 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: melissa.ishii@med.navy.mil
Subject: Testimony for HB1876 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1876

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melissa Ishii
Organization: Individual
E-mail: melissa.ishii@med.navy.mil
Submitted on: 1/25/2012

Comments:

I highly recommend that the license to practice should be displayed at all times in the office(s) where a dental hygienist practices.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 9:46 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mallerysayre@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1876 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1876

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laura Mallery-Sayre, RDH, MSDHEd
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mallerysayre@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2012

Comments:

I am strongly in support of HB1876 to require the display of dental hygiene licenses to ensure that the public knows that the individual providing their dental hygiene care is a qualified and licensed dental hygienist in the State of Hawaii.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 12:59 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: gaylerubino@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1876 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1876

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gayle Rubino
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gaylerubino@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/25/2012

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1876 requiring dental hygienists to prominently display their licenses in their place of practice. The public needs to know that the individual providing their dental cleaning is licensed to do so.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 1:36 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: dtmjtulua@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1876 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1876

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mary Jane Tuvera-Takemoto RDH
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dtmjtulua@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/25/2012

Comments:
Highly recommend to place licensure certificate for patients to see

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 8:56 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: aieasfrd@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1876 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1876

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Daphne Yoshikawa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: aieasfrd@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/26/2012

Comments:
I am in support of this dental hygiene bill

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 7:03 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: darlee.motosue@med.navy.mil
Subject: Testimony for HB1876 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1876

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: motosue darlee-ruth k.
Organization: Individual
E-mail: darlee.motosue@med.navy.mil
Submitted on: 1/26/2012

Comments:

I support for dental hygienist to display their state license in their place of practice.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 7:09 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: katherine.fukushima.ctr@med.navy.mil
Subject: Testimony for HB1876 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1876

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Katherine H. Fukushima
Organization: Individual
E-mail: katherine.fukushima.ctr@med.navy.mil
Submitted on: 1/26/2012

Comments:

I support HB 1876, requiring Dental Hygienists' to display their license in their place of practice.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 7:11 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: virginia.wiggins@med.navy.mil
Subject: Testimony for HB1876 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1876

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Virginia Lynne Wiggins
Organization: Individual
E-mail: virginia.wiggins@med.navy.mil
Submitted on: 1/26/2012

Comments:

I strongly support HB1876 requiring Dental hygienist to display their licenses in their place of practice.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 7:51 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: sierraspruce@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1876 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1876

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sierra Spruce
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sierraspruce@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/26/2012

Comments:

Chairman Yamane, Vice-Chair Morikawa and Members of the Health Committee:

My name is Sierra Spruce, I have been practicing dental hygiene for 40 years including 26 years in the State of Hawaii. I support this Bill requiring hygienists to prominently display their license in the offices that they work in. Most professions which are licensed are required to display their license in the workplace and hygienists should be no exception. Patients should have the knowledge that a licensed dental hygienist is treating them and not an unlicensed dental employee. Please lend your support to this requirement.

Sincerely,
Sierra Spruce, RDH
President HDHA 2003
POB 6697
Ocean View, HI 96737

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 1:32 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: tclegg09@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1876 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1876

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: tori clegg
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tclegg09@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/26/2012

Comments:

I am a licenced dental hygienist in Hawaii and I support this bill requiring dental hygienist to display their license.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 5:29 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: gfrubino@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1876 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1876

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Giacinto Rubino
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gfrubino@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/25/2012

Comments:

I am a dentist and I strongly support HB1876 to require dental hygienists to display their dental hygiene licenses. It is important for patients to understand that the person rendering their dental care is a licensed professional.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 10:00 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: ALOHA_JAZZ1@YAHOO.COM
Subject: Testimony for HB1876 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1876

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: JASMINE KONO
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ALOHA_JAZZ1@YAHOO.COM
Submitted on: 1/26/2012

Comments:

THE RDH LICENSE BEING DISPLAYED IS VERY IMPORTANT. THE LICENSE TELLS THE PATIENT THAT WE HAVE GONE TO COLLEGE, HAVE SPECIFIC CREDENTIALS AND HAVE PASSED ALL BOARDS REQUIRED TO PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENIST. MANY TIMES PATIENTS DON'T EVEN KNOW THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DENTAL HYGIENIST AND A DENTAL ASSISTANT. THIS WILL GIVE THEM A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TWO DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 12:23 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Thorneabbott@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1876 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1876

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thorne Abbott
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Thorneabbott@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/26/2012

Comments: