

**morikawa2 - Grant**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:32 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** d.bt@live.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2013 on 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM

L A T F

Testimony for HLT 3/20/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2013

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Diane Brucato-Thomas, RDH, EF, BS, FAADH  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [d.bt@live.com](mailto:d.bt@live.com)  
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

**Comments:**

Dear Honorable Representative Yamane, Chair, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee:  
This testimony is in strong support of S.B. 2013, 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,

Diane Brucato-Thomas, RDH, EF, BS, FAADH HDHA Past President AADH President ADHA Master Clinician

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2012

Tuesday, March 20, 2012  
9:00 a.m.

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2013, S.D.1, 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 Senate Bill No. 2013, S.D.1, Relating to Dental Hygienists, with comments.

The purpose of Senate Bill No. 2013, S.D.1, 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.

The Board, in collaboration with the Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association, recommends that the bill be amended to require the original or a copy of the certificate of license be prominently displayed in the workplace and the pocket I.D. card be readily available for viewing upon request to ensure the license is current.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2013, S.D.1, with amendment.