

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



GARY L. GILL  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Health**

**HB 2458, Relating to Dental Health**

**Testimony of Gary L. Gill  
Acting Director of Health**

**January 31, 2014**

**LATE**

1 **Department's Position:** Strongly supports

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health strongly supports the requirement that at a  
4 minimum, one (1) member of the Board of Dentistry and Hygiene, who is a practicing dentist shall have  
5 a background in public health dentistry or a license in community service dentistry. This requirement  
6 will help ensure there is a member that understands public health dentistry, and can contribute and  
7 evaluate dental issues through the public health perspective to the other members. As for the remaining  
8 sections of H.B. 2458, the Department of Health is deferring testimony.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony in Support of HB2458, Relating to The Board of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

Ellie Kelley-Miyashiro, RDH, BS

President – Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association

January 28, 2014

Dear Respected Members of the House Committee on Health:

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association (HDHA) is in full support of **HB2458**. This bill will bring a long-standing, recommended change to the composition of the Hawaii Board Of Dental Examiners as well as a logical change to its name. Currently there are 8 dentists, 2 hygienists and 2 public members on the Board. **HB2458** will increase the number of dental hygienists on the Board, as well as, reducing the number of dentists. Should the bill pass, the new ratio would be 5 dentists, 4 hygienists and 2 public members.

HDHA feels that the over-representation of dentists and under-representation of dental hygienists creates an environment where the majority group can easily steamroll or negate the opinions of the minority members. We understand that the role of the Board is to ultimately serve the interests of the public, but the unique and valuable perspective of the dental hygienist is not adequately represented at the current ratio.

It is also important to note that the change of name more accurately reflects its true function, which is monitoring the licensure of Dentists **AND** Dental Hygienists. The name change is appropriate because the Board encompasses the regulation and practice of both professions - not just dentistry. The Board has many functions and is more than just an "examining body", as is implied by the current name.

HDHA thanks you for your time and consideration of **HB2458**. We would like to convey our desire that dentists and hygienists continue to be integral members of the oral health team, and feel that the public is best served and protected when both oral health professions have adequate representation on the Board.

Thank you,

Ellie Kelley-Miyashiro, RDH, BS  
HDHA President 2012-2014

Hawaii State Legislature State  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Health

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health

Friday, January 31, 2014, 8:30 a.m. Room 329  
House Bill 2458 Relating to the Board of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

Honorable Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Dee Morikawa and  
members of the House Committee on Health,

My name is Russel Yamashita and I am the legislative representative for the Hawaii Dental Association and its 960 member dentists. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to of House Bill 2458 Relating to the Board of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene.

The bill before you today would realign the current Board of Dental Examiners and place significant imbalance on the composition of the Board when there is no shown need either within the State of Hawaii, nor any other state jurisdiction. Additionally, the requirement of a public health dentist or temporary community service license dentist on the Board is questionable in its intent, and appears short-sighted, especially when considered with the proposed reduction in the number of practicing dentists.

The primary job of the Board of Dental Examiners is to protect the public. As recent events have shown, that can be a daunting challenge with limited resources of the State and those who wish to fly beneath the radar of professional organizations and regulators. The proposed changes to the Board will only serve to weaken the oversight of practicing dentists who must devote significant time and personal resources to serve on this Board. By reducing the number of dentists on the Board, it will only serve to limit the professional resources and expertise of the Board at a time when even more resources are needed.

Increasing the number of dental hygienists serving on the Board also does not address the primary purpose of the Board. Hygienists will not be able to separately oversee any disciplinary action over a licensed hygienist, since the work any hygienist performs must be under the direction of a licensed dentist who is ultimately responsible and accountable to the Board for the actions of a hygienist working for the dentist. In other words, rarely, if at all, is there any disciplinary action taken against just a hygienist. Therefore, the need for expansion of the Board should be to increase the number of dentists on it to allow for better professional oversight of the delivery of professional services and protection of the public.

Additionally, the requirement of having a dentist with a community service license or a dentist working in a public health setting creates a number of problems. First, a community health license is a TEMPORARY license. Once the dentist leaves his or her service at a community health clinic, the license is revoked by operation of law. Second, requiring a dentist working in a community health area does not mean that person is a practicing dentist or has the requisite experience. If a person serving in an administrative, educational or governmental position qualifies under this requirement without having any practical experience, again the public would be poorly served and divert the Board from its primary purpose, to protect the public. The Board is not created to further the social needs of the state by diluting its resources and diverting it from its current priorities.

Therefore, the HDA and its members oppose the passage of this bill and I thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

**LATE**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2014

Friday, January 31, 2014  
8:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2458, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF  
DENTISTRY AND DENTAL HYGIENE.**

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Mark Baird, D.D.S., Chair of the Board of Dental Examiners ("Board"). The Board appreciates the opportunity to testify and offer comments on House Bill No. 2458, Relating to The Board of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene.

The purpose of House Bill No. 2458 is to update the name of the Board of Dental Examiners to the Board of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene, which more accurately reflects the Board's scope, and provide dental hygienists with greater representation on the Board so that board representation is more proportional to the number of licensed dentists and dental hygienists in Hawaii.

The Board believes the current composition of the Board is not problematic and that there may be unintended consequences. The Board's concern is with the addition of a member who is a practicing dentist with a background in public health dentistry and/or a community service dentist ("CSDT"). The primary concern is that it will be very difficult to find Board members who are available to serve from the very small pool of potential candidates (approx. less than 2% of licensees). In reference to the addition of a community service dentist, this license was designed specifically to address the



access to care issue by channeling the certified dentist to practice only while in the employment of the Department of Health, in federally qualified health centers, native Hawaiian clinics, and post-secondary dental auxiliary training programs. Therefore, it may be difficult to have a CSDT remain on the Board should that dentist become unemployed and lose that license.

Also in this section, the bill proposes that no member shall be in any way connected with or interested financially in any dental examination company. Please be informed that the Board is an active member of the Central Regional Dental Testing Service ("CRDTS") and the Northeast Regional Board of Dental Examiners ("NERB"), and Board members serve as examiners, officers, and committee members for these testing agencies. Therefore, most of the Board members would not be eligible to serve on the Board. The Board members that participate with the agencies primarily do so, because of the membership on the Board of Dental Examiners.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Board does not support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and comment on House Bill No. 2458.

**Re: HB 2458 RELATING TO BOARD OF DENTISTRY AND DENTAL HYGIENE**

**Committee on Health**

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Date: January 31, 2014

Time: 8:30am

Place: House Conference Room 329

**Dear Honorable Representative Belatti, Chair; Honorable Representative Morikawa, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Health:**

This testimony is in **support** of **HB 2458, as written**.

My name is Diane Brucato-Thomas, RDH, EF, BS, FAADH. I have been a practicing Dental Hygienist in good standing on the island of Hawaii since 1992. I live in Pahoia and have had the privilege to practice in Kona and Hilo. In addition, I have taken an active role in leadership; volunteered in my community, island, and state; attended almost every Board of Dental Examiners meeting since 2007 (and many before that); and even turned in two applications for a position on the Board of Dental Examiners. Presently, I am serving my second year on the Regulated Industries Complaints Office's (RICO) Dental Advisory Committee. I have been a dental hygienist since 1979, am a former Anesthesia Examiner for Western Regional Examining Board, and a longstanding member of the American Association of Dental Boards (formerly known as the American Board of Dental Examiners) since the mid 1980's.

Changing the name from Board of Dental Examiners to Board of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene more accurately reflects the governing agency of two professions. As the bill states, Dental Hygiene is the only licensed profession controlled and governed by another profession. In addition, while acting as a pool of dental examiners was the original purpose of the Board, currently, there is no Hawaii Dental or Dental Hygiene Examination (as noted in the omission of such in the newly adopted HAR Chapter 79). Instead, the ADEX national board or CRDTS regional exams are accepted for licensure. While the members of the Board may choose to act as examiners for the regional boards, they are not required to do so.

Changing the proportion of representation of dentists and dental hygienists on the Board, as this bill would require, could have far reaching advantage in the interest of public health and access to dental care. Of great interest is the shift in perspective that would come from including a majority of dentist board members being from outer islands and requiring one to have a background in public health.

Historically, when polled by Hawaii Dental Association, the dentists from outer islands have been more open minded and supportive of utilizing dental hygienists under general supervision in an effort to increase access to care. The Oahu dentists, on the other hand, have been more resistive to change. With three dentists from outer islands and two from Oahu, and with the requirement of one with a

public health background, the Board would still have a majority vote of dentists AND their perspective would likely be more productive and conducive to increasing safe public access to care. From that perspective alone, this bill is brilliant.

Adding a more proportionate number of dental hygienists to the Board will only magnify the effect, as dental hygienists have demonstrated, through their testimonies over the years, a keen interest in opportunities to promote public health and safe access to care through formal standardized education, regulated testing of competency, and licensure. Dental hygienists, as educated, licensed professionals, are willing to serve and can be a great asset to the public. Despite their value, they have been a grossly underutilized resource.

While I am certain you will hear opposition coming from the Hawaii Dental Association and the current Board of Dental Examiners (with currently 8 dentists, 1 hygienist, and 1 layperson), and understandably so, please do not be swayed. This bill has the potential to affect the public in a most positive way. Please support HB 2458, as written.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Brucato-Thomas, RDH, EF, BS, FAADH  
d.bt@live.com (808) 937-7282

Member, Regulated Industries Complaints Office's (RICO) Dental Advisory Committee

Member, American Association of Dental Boards

Immediate Past President, American Academy of Dental Hygiene

Past President, Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association

ADHA/Hu-Friedy Master Clinician Award 2008

Sunstar/RDH Award of Distinction 2002



**morikawa2-Joanna**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 7:45 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** Jusnoe@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2458 on Jan 31, 2014 08:30AM

**HB2458**

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noelani Greene	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Need hygienist representation on the board not just a dentist perspective.

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**morikawa2-Joanna**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2014 8:47 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** gerrainehignite@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2458 on Jan 31, 2014 08:30AM\*

**HB2458**

Submitted on: 1/29/2014

Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gerraine Hignite	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and distinguished members of the House Health Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2458 with reservations.

My name is Marilyn Nonaka. As a practicing dental hygienist and former dental hygienist member on the Board of Dental Examiners, my opinion is based on my first-hand experience during my term on the Board. I regret that I am currently out of the state caring for my aging parents and am unable to provide my testimony in person.

**Changing the title to “The Board of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene” of the state agency that oversees two licensed, regulated professions is indeed more appropriate and I offer my wholehearted support.**

While HB addresses the deficiencies and limitations that currently exist with the current ratio of dentist/dental hygienist/public members, I offer that the bill does not go far enough to insure that the public’s safety and welfare are served. **I would submit for the Committee’s consideration that the ratio be changed to either 4 dentists/ 4 dental hygienists/ 3 public members or 5 dentists/ 3 dental hygienists/ 3 public members to prevent either profession from possessing an unintended majority by the mere composition of Board members.** The public members who have served and are serving on the Board provide an impartial voice that truly represents the public of Hawaii. Increase the volume of that perspective by adding another public member.

**The Board’s dependence upon its dentist and dental hygiene members for professional acumen can still be accomplished with a reduced and balanced ratio of professional members. If further resources or additional information is needed for the Board’s consideration, members from the dental and dental hygiene professional associations regularly attend Board meetings and are readily available to serve in that capacity.** As was recently quoted in the Honolulu Star Advertiser (January 26, 2014), the Hawaii Dental Association has worked closely with the Board in providing information regarding rules for sedation and general anesthesia. The Hawaii Association of Nurse Anesthetists also recently provided valuable input regarding rules within the dental administrative section that impacted their members.

I also support the specification of at least one of the representative dentists having experience in public health dentistry or holding a license in community service dentistry. That Board member dentist will insure that a perspective unique to providing dental services to the underserved will be heard.

It is not clear if the bill’s intent is to solely preclude Board members from being affiliated with or receiving compensation from an examining organization. The Board no longer has the responsibility of producing a state examination for licensing dentists and dental hygienists, but instead relies on impartial, patient-based clinical national exams to determine minimal competency. By Hawaii law, only the ADEX dental exam (among multiple possible exams) has been selected for qualifying dentists for licensure, while multiple exams are deemed acceptable for licensing dental hygienists in our state. **It is customary for states utilizing independent exams to provide dentist and dental hygienist examiners for the exam organizations’ grading pools to be utilized throughout the country wherever the exam is accepted and administered, and the usual participants are sitting and retired members of state regulatory boards. If it is the intent of the bill to guarantee as much as possible that the State’s position of impartiality in licensing dentist and dental hygienists be maintained, then I would offer to this Committee to include a provision that sitting Board members may not participate in the administration of or grading of exams held in Hawaii.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony with reservations for HB 2458.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Nonaka

Jill Rethman, RDH, BA  
47-140 Heno Place  
Kaneohe, HI 96744  
[grethman@hotmail.com](mailto:grethman@hotmail.com)

Testimony in **Support** of HB2458 - Relating to The Board of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

Jill Rethman, RDH, BA  
Past President – Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association  
Regulations & Practice Chair - Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association  
Editor in Chief – [Dimensions of Dental Hygiene](#)

Date of Hearing: Friday, January 31 at 8:30 AM

House Committee on Health  
Representative Della au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Dear Esteemed Members of the House Committee on Health,

Thank you for attempting to revise the current Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners (BODE). I applaud your effort to make several much needed changes and support this bill.

The BODE exists to protect the health of the public. In that role, it's important to understand that dentists and dental hygienists best serve the public when working together as a team. While the current BODE does consist of dentist and dental hygiene members, there is a large representation gap: 8 dentist members, 2 dental hygienist members and 2 public members. Recommendations to better balance the Board are not new – in 1994 a State Auditor's Report concluded, "dental hygienists need greater representation on the Board of Dental Examiners." The specific recommendation was to substitute 2 dental hygienist members for 2 dentist members with the net change resulting in 6 dentists, 3 dental hygienists, and 2 public members – still maintaining an 11-member Board. However, *the Board did not follow the recommendations of the Auditor's Report regarding increasing the number of dental hygienist members and decreasing the number of dentists*. Instead, it increased the number of dental hygienists by one and kept the same number of dentists, resulting in the 12-member Board that is in effect today. There was also a previous Auditor's Report made in 1984 where similar recommendations were made regarding including/increasing dental hygienist member representation.

It's easy to see how the dental hygienist's voice, expertise, and perspective might not be reflected in Board actions due to the significantly higher number of dentist representation as compared to that of dental hygienists. The 1994 State Auditor's Report noted with concern that the Board's failure to implement its recommendation missed the point: the ultimate direction of its recommendation was to create a "better *balanced* board since the interests of dental hygienist [members] may conflict with and be outweighed by those of the dentist [members]." The report found that the Board's alternative proposal of merely increasing the dental hygienist representation by one "would not achieve the needed balance."

Although serving the public is the overarching goal of the Board, it's easy to see how group-think by the dentist members could negate dental hygienist perspectives should there be a conflict. Therefore, it is advisable to balance the Board so the unique perspective of dental hygienists is not lost. As a point of clarification, the dental hygiene profession is regulated by the dental profession in Hawaii and dental hygienists rely on dentists for employment since they do not practice independently. Dental hygiene is the only profession that is regulated by another profession, and simultaneously employed and salaried by that same profession.

If one considers Board representation based on the number of licensees in Hawaii, the current numbers don't reflect equality. Based on recently released statistics, 1 dental hygienist member represents 520 licensed hygienists while 1 dentist member represents 190 licensed dentists. There are over 2 ½ times the number of dentist Board representative members for total dentist licensees as compared to the number of dental hygienist representation for total dental hygienist licensees.

The current over-representation of dentist members was devised initially because the BODE administered its own exams and needed the dentist members to be administrators. This is no longer the case since Hawaii does not administer its own Board exam. In addition, dental hygienist members are now taking on a more active role than was the case in 1994. For your reference, that's when the last change was made in the number of dental hygienists represented on the Board (at that time it was increased from 1 to 2 while the number of dentist members remained the same at 8.) With only two dental hygienist members, it's difficult to:

- Serve as officials and examiners by representing Hawaii within regional licensing entities and national professional regulatory organization
- Sit on and chair subcommittees of the Board
- Independently review CE audits and other Board matters
- Research dental hygiene issues pertaining to Board business
- Present Board testimony at legislative hearings

In addition, if there is an absence of a dental hygiene member at any BODE meeting the dental hygiene voice is limited even further

It is also appropriate to re-name the BODE as the Board of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene. The Board is no longer an examining body for Hawaii state licensure. And since the Board regulates both the profession of dentistry and the profession of



dental hygiene, that should be reflected in its title. I would also suggest two changes to the document: 1) removing Section 2 in HB2458 as it seems redundant and contradictory to Section 3, which reflects the intent of the Bill; 2) inserting the words "in the State" after the word "dentistry" in line 7 of Section 3. It would also be advisable to clarify line 15 in Section 3, "No member shall be in any way connected with, or interested financially in, any dental supply company or dental examination company." This might be interpreted to prevent Board members from being examiners of a regional testing agency and thus prevent the Board from joining and recognizing one of the regional exams.

In conclusion, an objection to changing the composition and title of the Board may be that the status quo is working. I would challenge that objection with the question: how much better could it be? Just as pertinent, it has been 20 years since a revision of the Board, and even that change resulted in only one additional dental hygiene member. Since dental hygienists focus on prevention of oral disease, having both licensed members of the oral health care team equally represented on the Board might give more prominence to issues regarding prevention and access. Ultimately, this would enable the Board to better serve and protect the public.

Thank you for your time.

**morikawa2-Joanna**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 12:10 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** sierraspruce@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2458 on Jan 31, 2014 08:30AM



**HB2458**

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sierra Spruce	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Committee on Health Rep. Bellati, Chair Rep. Morikawa, Vice Chair and members of the Health Committee I strongly urge you to support HB 2458. This Bill changes the name of the Board of Dental Examiners to more clearly reflect the duties of the Board. This Board no longer administers dental or dental hygiene examination and they do govern dentists and hygienists. The reconfiguration of the numbers of appointees to the Board to include more dental hygienists is a more equitable solution for representation. As the bill shows, there are nearly as many hygienists as dentists licensed in Hawaii. Hygienists are one of the few professions governed by another profession, so to have better representation on the Board which governs them seems like a fair solution to this inequality. Please give your consideration to making a positive change in the structure of the Dental and Dental Hygiene Board. Mahalo, Sierra Spruce, RDH Ocean View, HI 96737 Practicing DH in Hawaii since 1986 Former member Dental Hygiene Advisory Comm to the Texas Board of Dental Examiners President Hawaii Dental Hygienists Assoc, 2003

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## morikawa2-Joanna

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**From:** teruyadt@att.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2014 11:16 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** Darrell; teruyadt@gmail.com  
**Subject:** House Health Committee Hearing Testimony Friday 01-31-14 6:30 HB2456-60

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow Up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

The Hawai'i House of Representatives COMMITTEE on HEALTH

Friday, January 31, 2014 Room 329

Testimony in **support** of HB 2456

Testimony in **opposition** to HB 2457; **HB 2458**; HB 2459; and HB 2460

Representative Della Au Bellati, Chair; Representative Dee Morikawa Vice-Chair; honored members of the House Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these issues affecting the dental health of the people of Hawai'i . I'm a general dentist with 30 years of practice in the State of Hawai'i and as a previous officer of the Hawai'i Dental Association, I've provided testimony on a variety of issues.

I support HB 2456 which requires an introductory dental examination prior to entry in a primary or secondary school in Hawai'i. The keiki of Hawai'i would be well served by placement in a "Dental Home" setting. As a longtime dentist I can recall the State DOH Certificate of Dental Health that we used to hand out on completion of treatment.

I oppose HB 2457 which requires the DOH to enter into agreements to administer sealants to high school students. There are protocols in place where such programs can be administered on an ad hoc or proscribed basis. Since the Dental Department of the DOH has only recently been reestablished, it would be prudent to see what priorities and program implementation will be forthcoming before proceeding on any mandated path.

I oppose HB 2458 which would change the membership and structure of the Hawai'i Board of Dental Examiners. Governor Abercrombie has only recently signed the revised Rules for the Practice of Dentistry in Hawai'i. This comes only after an 8 year comprehensive review and revision by this Dental Board. Change of the makeup of the Board would unduly compromise the ability of the Board to carry out its duties.

I oppose HB 2459 which requires a dentist to obtain written permission from the Board of Dental Examiners in prescribing or administering general anesthesia or conscious/ unconscious sedation. While well intentioned, there have been recent changes to the Hawai'i Dental Rules which essentially obviates this measure. I earnestly hope that we give these Rules changes a chance.

I oppose HB 2460 which would set up a secondary licensing structure for Dental Specialists. There have been a number of times in recent years where the integrity of dental licensure in Hawai'i has been challenged. This measure could have the unintended consequence of having differing means and standards of licensure between categories of dentists. That being said, I would be amenable to recognition of Board Certified Specialties as recognized by the ADA. This approach is also congruent with the advertising strictures in the Hawai'i Revised Statutes regarding dental advertising. This, however, should be addressed separately.

Again, mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on these measures.

Darrell Teruya, DDS

Past President (2008) Hawai'i Dental Association

Committee On Health

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Des Morikawa, Vice Chair

Rep. Mele Carroll

Rep Bertrand Kobayashi

Rep. Richard Cregan

Rep Marcus Oshiro

Rep Mark Hashem

Rep Justin Woodson

Rep. Jo Jordan

Rep. Lauren K Matsumoto

**LATE**

Friday, January 31, 2014

8:30 AM

Conference Room 329

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Belatti and Members of the House Committee on Health,

My name is Glenn Okihiro and I am speaking in opposition to HB 2458 relating to the Board of Dental Examiners. Changing the composition of the Board from 8 dentists to 5 is the opposite of what we should be doing in regards to public safety. We need the full involvement of the existing members of the Board. The recent rules on sedation were due to the expertise of the dentist members. Recent events will require more time of the dentist members and reducing their numbers will increase their workload and delay future actions. Less expert input is not what we need.

Doubling the # of hygienist members based on licenses makes no logical sense. Changing the makeup of the Board of Medical Examiners based on LPN's, PA's, RN's or medical assistants would not increase public safety when the Board is looking at the credentials of a thoracic surgeon or orthopedic surgeon. I don't believe the Hawaii Bar Association determines its makeup based on the # of paralegals they employ. Even among the hygienist their education training programs vary from 2 to 5 years. We need more expertise on sedation issues not less.

Public safety requires more expert input from our board not less. This should not be about giving hygienist more power at the expense of public safety. I believe the Board should be responsible for Hawaii's citizens' safety and not for how many licensed hygienist they represent. If the legislators truly

believe the Board exists to represent licensed dental hygienists please put it in writing and I will remove my objections based on Hawaii's citizens' health and safety.

Sincerely,

Glenn Okihiro, DDS