



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

House Committee on Health  
H.B. 2456, RELATING TO EDUCATION

Testimony of Gary L. Gill  
Acting Director of Health

January 31, 2014

**LATE**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of H.B. 2456 to improve the  
2 oral health of children by requiring that students have a dental examination prior to entrance to any  
3 school in the state. However, the Department has concerns regarding implementation, including the  
4 potential impact on the dental service delivery system and potential barriers to school entrance.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department would require resources to implement this measure. The  
6 Department's public health dental program was eliminated as a result of the 2009 budget reductions and  
7 there is currently no infrastructure to support full implementation.

8 **Purpose and Justification:** Tooth decay is the most common disease of childhood and can lead to  
9 physical and psychological disabilities as well as significant diseases in adulthood. Tooth decay may  
10 result in pain and other problems that affect learning in school-age children including lost school time  
11 and ability to concentrate. Early and regular dental care is critical to the health and success of our  
12 children. Yet, many of our most vulnerable children are not receiving basic dental care.

13 The Department believes the measure will help assure more children receive dental care and  
14 arrive at school ready to learn but is concerned whether all children will be able to readily access dental  
15 services to meet the entrance requirement. Many factors can affect access including lack of insurance,

1 high co-payments, limited availability of dental providers, transportation, cultural and language  
2 competency, lack of clear information for beneficiaries about dental benefits, and lack of understanding  
3 regarding the importance of oral health. Children with special health needs may also experience  
4 difficulty finding dentists trained and willing to serve this population.

5 The Department is also uncertain what impact the dental examination requirement may have on  
6 the existing service delivery system and whether providers can adequately accommodate the additional  
7 demand especially in rural, neighbor island communities.

8 To ensure the measure does not create an uninintended impediment to school entrance, the  
9 Department is willing to work with the Department of Education, oral health providers and other  
10 stakeholders to assess the potential impact of measure.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 01/31/2014

**Committee:** House Health

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2456 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, requires a child to have a dental examination prior to entering any elementary, middle or intermediate, or high school for the first time in the State.

**Department's Position:**

While the Department acknowledges the intent of this bill in promoting a healthy school population, a mandatory requirement such as that proposed in this bill would serve as a barrier to school enrollment and may negatively impact student achievement and learning outcomes for many students. Many families do not have access to providers who offer free or reduced-cost dental services in many remote geographic locations across the state. Where clinics may be available, transportation may be a barrier for many families. Given these factors, school entry for many children may be delayed. Therefore we respectfully oppose this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
January 30, 2014

**LATE**

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
House Committee on Health  
Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Belatti and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: HB 2456-RELATING TO EDUCATION**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB 2456**. The bill requires that a student have a dental examination prior to entering any elementary, middle or intermediate, or high school for the first time in the State.

By requiring dental examinations prior to the entrance of school, parents or guardians would make it a priority to have their child complete an examination. This would be a proactive step in preventing tooth decay, providing early diagnosis and treatment of dental caries, and improving the oral health of children.

The proposed "ninety" days (Page 2, line21) to complete a dental exam seems to be a reasonable time frame. There are individuals with special needs who cannot and will not be able to sit in a dental chair and tolerate any dental procedures to be performed on them. They may require desensitization to going to a dental office and may require sedation to perform any type of dental procedure. For these situations, it may take more than the 30 days (current language under Notification for noncompliance) to complete a dental examination. As a result, these individuals would not be admitted to school. For students with special needs or a disability, the consequence of not attending school may result in loss of acquired skills. We appreciate the extended year time period to complete a dental examination.

Access to dental care services for individuals with DD is a priority of the Council and is addressed in our 2012-2016 State Plan through partnerships with dental hygienists, the University of Hawaii School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, the Maternal Child Health Leadership in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities program, and Special Olympics to do in-service training on preventive oral health care for families and other caregivers. Children and adults with DD face increased oral health challenges to find a dentist willing and able to treat them due to their disability.

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Page 2  
January 31, 2104

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **supporting HB 2456.**

Sincerely,

  
Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW  
Executive Administrator

  
J. Curtis Tyler III  
Chair





Testimony in Support of **HB2456**, Relating to Education

Ellie Kelley-Miyashiro, RDH, BS

President – Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association

January 29, 2014

Dear Respected Members of the House Committee on Health:

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association (HDHA) strongly supports your efforts to help solve the problem of inadequate oral health care for Hawaii's children. We feel Hawaii could do more to prevent oral disease; cavities in particular, among its school aged population. Early monitoring and prevention of oral health issues are strongly needed and important for our children. An examination prior to school entry is a great first step in the prevention process. **HB2456** has the potential to elevate the oral health of Hawaii's keiki.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

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 2456 Relating to Education

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 (HDA) and its 960 member dentists. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in general support of House Bill 2456 Relating to Education. The bill before you today would have the Department of Education require students entering Hawaii's public schools for the first time to have a dental examination and a report from a private dentist to be submitted to the school. The HDA supports the intent of this bill and would like to point out that this examination requirement was previously in place for students attending Hawaii's schools, but was discontinued years ago.

The HDA believes that children should be examined in early childhood, much like they are by their family doctor or pediatrician to assure that they are not facing serious dental problems or diseases.

## **morikawa2-Joanna**

---

**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