

# SB2678

Measure Title: RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS.

Report Title: Board of Dental Hygienist Examiners; Dentistry; Dental Hygienists

Description: Creates the board of dental hygienist examiners to oversee dental hygienists separate and apart from the board of dental examiners who oversee dentists.

Companion: [HB1861](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH, WAM

Introducer(s): BAKER, ENGLISH, ESPERO, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI, NISHIHARA, Dela Cruz



Hawaii  
Dental Hygienists' Association

Hawaii State Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health  
February 1, 2016  
Legislative Hearing on SB 2678 Relating to DENTAL HYGIENISTS  
Testimony in Support of SB 2678  
Ellie Kelley-Miyashiro, RDH  
Regulation and Practice Chairperson HDHA 2016

Dear Respected Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health:

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association (HDHA) supports the intent of **SB 2678**. We would like to congratulate you on your leadership in initiating this important discussion during this legislative session. This bill will bring a much-needed change to the existing structure of the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners regulation over Dental Hygienists.

There has been a long-standing recommendation to change the composition of the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners as far back as 1983. As mentioned within the Bill itself, currently there are 8 dentists, 2 hygienists and 2 public members on the current Board of Dental Examiners. Over the years, it has been suggested by State Auditors via Sunset Evaluations, as well as various legislative attempts to increase the number of dental hygienists on the existing Board to a minimum of 3 dental hygienists, creating better equilibrium. These requests have been passed over and gone unfulfilled time and time again.

The current over-representation of dentists and under-representation of dental hygienists creates an environment where the majority group can easily overpower or minimize the opinions of its minority members. HDHA understands that the role of the Board is to ultimately serve and protect the interests of the public however; the unique and valuable perspective of the dental hygienist is not adequately represented at the current 8 to 2 ratio.

In addition, public safety as it relates to the practice of Dental Hygiene, can and will be best served by a self-regulating Board: a board where each member has true and equal voice, as regards to the educational standards, licensure and scope of practice for dental hygienists.

By the creation of a separate Hawaii Board of Dental Hygiene (a name we feel more adequately represents the intent) it would allow licensed dental hygienists to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by making sure that only those practitioners who are qualified are allowed to treat patients. A self-regulating board would be a privilege and would be a step toward full recognition as a complete and distinct profession apart from dentistry. We believe it is key to the long-term viability of the profession. Dental hygiene has been self-regulated

in Canada, for more than 50 years and is gaining traction across America. It is not a new idea or a unique idea; it is simply an idea that makes sense. Dental Hygienists regulating the profession of Dental Hygiene.

HDHA thanks you for your time and consideration of **SB2678**. 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 their perspective Boards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2016

Wednesday, February 3, 2016  
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2678, RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Candace Wada, D.D.S., Vice Chair of the Board of Dental Examiners ("Board"). I appreciate the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2678, Relating to Dental Hygienists, that creates the Board of Dental Hygienist Examiners, to oversee dental hygienists, separate and apart from the Board of Dental Examiners, who oversee dentists.

While the Board has not had an opportunity to review this bill, it will be discussed at the next scheduled Board meeting on March 21, 2016. In a previous discussion regarding the Board's composition, it appeared that the Board may be in favor of increasing the Board's composition with an additional dental hygienist member. The Board of Dental Examiners is composed of dentists, dental hygienists, and public members, and should remain as such for the practice of dentistry, as in most cases, that involve a team of a dentist, a dental hygienist, and a dental assistant.

The Board, when it meets, will be discussing the proposed measure and the amendments on page 2, lines 10 and 11, regarding the appointment of two dentists who are also appointed to the Board of Dental Examiners. This would appear to create a

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2678  
Wednesday, February 3, 2016  
Page 2

hardship for the two dentists serving on two boards. In addition, the Board will discuss the amendments on page 10, section 8, lines 7 to 11, regarding the proposed dental hygienist board's ability to revoke a dentist's license. Presumably, the authority to revoke a dentist's license would be pursuant to Chapter 448, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Board of Dental Examiners.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2678.

Hawaii State Legislature  
State Senate  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

State Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
State Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Wednesday, February 3, 2016, 9:00 a.m. Room 229  
Senate Bill 2678 Relating to Dental Hygienists

Honorable Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and 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 opposition of Senate Bill 2678 Relating to Dental Hygienists. Currently, there is no state which provides for a separate licensing board for dental hygienists.

The Department of Commerce and Consumers Affairs, Professional and Vocational Licensing Division's Board of Dental Examiners oversees the active licenses of 1,504 dentists, 1,089 dental hygienists, and 35 community service dentists. Forty-nine states (including Hawaii) essentially require all dental hygienists to work under the direction of a licensed dentist.

Hawaii law requires that a dental hygienist can only perform his or her duties under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist, only after the dentist has examined, evaluated and diagnosed the patient. If the dentist believes it is necessary, the dentist then will direct the dental hygienist to perform the necessary procedures they are permitted under the dental practice act. Any work or procedures performed by a dental hygienist is required to be supervised by the dentist. All work performed under the direct supervision of the dentist is the responsibility of the dentist. The dental hygienist now is protected from liability for the work performed under the supervision of the dentist and as the dentist's employee. The ultimate responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment performed in a dentist's office is the dentist alone, no matter who performed any procedures on a patient. Therefore, it is not clear what the functions of a separate dental hygienists board would serve, given that they may not diagnose, treat or practice independently of a licensed dentist.

Therefore, from the practical regulatory and professional standpoint, the creation of a separate licensing board for dental hygienists is not warranted under current standards of practice. The Hawaii Dental Association strongly request that this legislation be held by this committee.

**Re: SB 2678 RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

**Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: February 3, 2016

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Senate Conference Room 229

**Dear Honorable Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Kidani, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:**

This testimony is in **support** of intent of **SB2678** with modified language to more accurately define and create the new Dental Hygiene Board referred to as the "Board of Dental Hygienist Examiners."

My name is Sandra Kirkoski, MS, MA, BGS, RDH, CDA/Ortho, Dip.ID. I am President of the Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association and I live on the island of Oahu. I have been a dental hygienist since 1993, but prior to that, I practiced as a dental assistant.

Creating a separate Board to transfer the governance of Dental Hygienists from the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners to a Dental Hygiene Board is appropriate. Presently, professional licensed dental hygienists are controlled and governed by another profession, dentists, who also employ them. This is clearly a conflict of interest.

Dental hygienists have demonstrated, through their testimonies over the years, a keen interest in opportunities to promote public health, to increase access to care for the underserved of the community, and to provide 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 great assets to the community. Despite their value, they have been grossly underutilized resources.

Dental hygienists are experts in prevention of oral diseases and are also concerned professionals about health and safety issues for the public. Creating a separate Dental Hygiene Board, as this bill would require, could have far reaching advantages in the interest of public health and safe access to dental care for the underserved populations.

While I am certain you will hear opposition coming from the Hawaii Dental Association and the current Board of Dental Examiners, please do not be

swayed. This bill has the potential to affect the public in a most positive way.  
Please support SB 2678.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Suggested additions:

Paragraph 447-B

A Hawaii Dental Hygiene Board would be responsible for ratifying dental hygiene applicants for block anesthesia certification and licensure, regulating the practice of dental hygiene, implementing the statutory Dental Hygiene Practice Act through the formulation of Rules, and handling related business specific to dental hygiene regulation and safe practice.

Respectfully yours,

Sandra Kirkoski, MS, MA, BGS, RDH, CDA/Ortho, Dip.ID  
President Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association  
ADHA Scholarship/Unleashing Your Potential 2015  
[skirkoski@twc.com](mailto:skirkoski@twc.com)  
808-388-8836



HB. NO. 1861/ SB. NO. 2678

Hearing Date: February 3, 2016

Time: 9:00am

Place: State Conference room 229

Good Morning,

My name is Diana Smith. I've been a licensed Dental Hygienist for 34 years, 25 of those years here in Hawaii. I'm a member of the American Dental Hygienists' Association and the Big Island Trustee for the Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association. I work full time in private practice and volunteer one day a month and alongside adults with disabilities.

I'd like to thank the members of legislature for taking the time to address these issues.

Allowing hygienists' to regulate and oversee the licensing of dental hygiene professionals, in the state of Hawaii is logical and long overdue. Physicians do not license nurses.

Having a board with a majority of dental hygienists, permitting us to make decisions concerning licensing, is in the best interest for the dental community. This is wonderful and again overdue.

I am in favor of HB.NO.1861 with appropriate suggestions. Since "we" are not actually the examiners, we use a "regional board exam", which is done throughout section of the U.S. It would be more accurate for 447-A line 3 to read : "Board" means the board of dental hygienists. Eliminating the word examiners.

Thank-you for your time,

Diana G. Smith RDH, BA, member ADHA, HDHA Big Island Trustee

85-4589 Mamalahoa Hwy.

Captain Cook, Hi 96704

808 345-7019 dgsinhawaii@yahoo.com



**Re: SB 2678 RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

**Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: February 3, 2016

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Senate Conference Room 229

**Dear Honorable Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Kidani, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:**

This testimony is in **support** of intent of **SB2678**, with improved language to more accurately define the Board.

My name is Diane Brucato, RDH, EF, BS, FAADH. I have been a practicing Dental Hygienist in good standing on the island of Hawaii since 1992. I live in Hilo and have had the privilege to practice in both 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 fourth 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.

Creating a separate Board to transfer the oversight of Dental Hygienists from the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners to a Dental Hygiene Board is appropriate. Professional licensed dental hygienists are controlled and governed by another profession, dentists, who also employ them. This is clearly a conflict of interest.

With respect, I would like to suggest that the name of the Board be the "Hawaii Dental Hygiene Board" for the following reasons:

- 1) We have dental boards, not dentists' boards. It is the Dental profession and the Dental Hygiene Profession, therefore, Dental Hygiene Board is appropriate.
- 2) While acting as a pool of dental examiners was the original purpose of the Board, currently, there is no Hawaii Dental or Dental Hygiene Licensing Examination (as noted in the omission of such in the recently adopted HAR Chapter 79). Instead, the ADEX national board or Regional exams are accepted for licensure. While the members of the Board may choose to act as examiners for the regional boards, and usually do, they are not required to do so.

3) The duties of this Board would be more regulatory, just as the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners has become, since the elimination of the Hawaii Dental Licensing and Dental Hygiene Licensing Exams. In fact, the suggestion has been made to change the name of the HBODE.

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. Thank you for recognizing them as the professionals they are.

Creating a separate Dental Hygiene Board, as this bill would require, could have far reaching advantage in the interest of public health and safe access to dental care, as dental hygienists are experts in prevention and concerned about the health and safety of the public first and foremost.

While I am certain you will hear opposition coming from the Hawaii Dental Association and the current Board of Dental Examiners, and understandably so, please do not be swayed. This bill has the potential to affect the public in a most positive way. Please support SB 2678 and consider improved language.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Diane Brucato, 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

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**SB2678**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Emma Yates	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill!

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**SB2678**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gayle C Chang, RDH, BEEd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2678**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: I would like RDH in Hawaii to have self regulation.

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**SB2678**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gwendolyn Rosario	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2678**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jamie k. pang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2678**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JANA NAKAMURA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2678**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
janet ancheta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2678**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
karen guevarra	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe that we should have a stronger representation on the board. Anything that can impact the Dental Hygiene field should have input from actual Dental Hygienists.

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**Senate Bill 2678  
Hearing Date Feb. 3, 2016 at 9AM  
Conference Room 229**

**Dear Chairwoman Baker, Vice Chairwoman Kidani, Senator Espero, Senator Ihara, Senator Nishihara, Senator Ruderman and Senator Slom,**

**I speak in support of SB2678. As a registered dental hygienist of 47 years, I have practiced as a licensed professional in Hawaii for 32 of those years. I currently serve as a Dental Advisory Board Member for RICCO and have done so for 23 years.**

**I can assure you that it is my experience that the licensed dental hygienists that I know in the State of Hawaii hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical practice. Not once in the thirty-two years that I have been practicing in Hawaii and have served on this State regulatory body have any of my colleagues ever been brought forward on disciplinary charges. On the contrary, they seem to always be in the forefront advocating for improved guidelines for the practice of dental hygiene and dentistry on the behalf of the public that we serve.**

**As a dental hygiene educator and researcher, I have been extremely impressed with the level of professionalism and leadership capabilities of dental hygienists within the State of Hawaii. All of the graduating students from the school of Dental Hygiene at the U. of Hawaii at Manoa have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree. Many of my educational colleagues as well as myself have Master's degrees and are working on our Doctorates. That being said, we are the only profession not permitted to regulate ourselves!!**

**In the parallel practice of medicine, the physicians do not govern the nursing profession, the nurses are self-governing and have been so for decades. The profession of dental hygiene, very much like the profession of nursing, has their own distinct body of knowledge and should be regulated by a body of highly qualified peers, not by another profession with distinctly different skill sets.**

**Many states have had long standing Dental Hygiene Regulatory Boards that have proven to be highly successful in enhancing the practice of dental hygiene in all public arenas through strict regulatory guidelines established by their peers. Hawaii is ready for this step forward.**

**I urge all of you to please move this Bill forward and to assist in furthering the dental care of the people of Hawaii.**

**Laura A. Mallery-Sayre, RDH, MSDHED  
Former ADHA Vice President  
Former ADHA Commissioner for the Assurance of Competency  
Three Term HDHA President  
Two Term VDHA President  
Dental Hygiene Educator, Researcher and Doctoral Student**

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**SB2678**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lenora Marks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2678**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marilyn Roberts Nonaka	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: CORRECTION TO PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TESTIMONY FOR SB2678: SHOULD READ "The 8 dentist examiners share the responsibility for overseeing one dental exam."

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Honorable Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Respected Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

Thank you the opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB 2678. My name is Marilyn Nonaka, and I have been a licensed, practicing dental hygienist in Hawaii for over 25 years. I also had the privilege of serving the State of Hawaii as a dental hygienist member on the Board of Dental Examiners from 2010 – 2014.

I commend this committee for your interest in looking at a better way for the State to regulate the profession of dental hygiene. In 2014 I supported legislation that was introduced to increase the number of dental hygienists and public members on the Board of Dental Examiners. Unfortunately it failed.

Initial and increased dental hygienist representation on the Board has been historically long-drawn-out. Recommendations regarding specific, increased numbers of dental hygienists on the Board from the State Auditor have been ignored by the dentists-monopolized Board.

Currently the State of Hawaii accepts multiple regional and national exams for licensing dental hygienists, but accepts only one national exam for licensing dentists. The responsibilities for the two dental hygienists now serving on the Board have increased through recent years. The 12 dentist examiners share the responsibility for overseeing one dental exam.

The current composition of the Board, with its preponderant majority of dentist representation, reflects the desire, direction, and dictation of its dentist members. Some would argue that it has served the state well, that it isn't broke so why try to fix it, and why not just leave well enough alone. I propose that because there is not an impartial platform where options, ideas, and programs can be considered, evaluated, and implemented, the State of Hawaii cannot benefit from proven, successful alternatives and an increase in public safety regarding its oral health care.

I close with a quote from the Bureau of Health Professions within the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services:

“Self-regulation provides a profession with the autonomy to govern licensed professionals within the boundaries of patient safety while maintaining or elevating the profession by encouraging expertise in professional practice. The regulation of hygienists by the profession of dentistry limits the hygienist profession to practice consistent with the prerogatives of another profession. This situation is at variance with the prevailing standard of self-regulation for most health professions.”

Thank you for considering support for SB 2678.



Noelani Greene, RDH, BS  
P. O. Box 1099  
Kealahou, HI 96750

February 1, 2016

**SUBJECT: SB 2678 Relating to Dental Hygienists**

Hearing Date February 3, 2016

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Conference Room 229

Hearing Date February 3, 2016

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Conference Room 229

**SUPPORT OF SB 2678**

Dear Honorable Chairperson Rosalyn Baker, Vice-Chair Michelle Kidani, and Respected Members of Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

My name is Noelani Greene, I'm a licensed Registered Dental Hygienist in the State of Hawaii and have been practicing on Oahu for five years. I am submitting testimony in **support of SB 2678.**

I support the bill to create a board of dental hygienist separate and apart from the board of dental examiners who oversee dentist. SB 2678 will help with the self regulation of dental hygienist.

In the United States, eighteen states have dental hygiene advisory committees or varying degrees of self regulation for dental hygienists (ADHA.org). Having a separate board of dental hygienists will allow the 1,030 licensed hygienist in the State of Hawaii to have representation by dental hygienists. The current board of dental examiners is composed of eight dentists, two dental hygienists, and two members of the public. As stated in **SB 2678**, the disparity in representation of dental hygienists and dentists on the board can cause the interests and concerns of dentists to outweigh those of dental hygienists. Furthermore, the disparity in representation can and will be a concern to public safety. The importance of a separate board of dental hygienist will allow hygienist to regulate hygiene issues and protect the public.

I ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration of **SB 2678**.

Sincerely,

Noelani Greene, RDH, BS

**Re: SB2678 Relating to Dental Hygienists**

**Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health**

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair- Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Hearing Date February 3, 2016

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Conference Room 229

Dear Honorable Senator Baker, Senator Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I am in support of SB2678. My name is Sierra Spruce and I have been a full time practicing hygienist for 45 years, 30 of those years in Kona, Hawaii. I have served as a leader in both Texas and Hawaii and have served as a grader for the dental hygiene board exams in Hawaii.

In my experience over the years it has seemed that there is an inequity in the representation of hygienists on the Dental Board. The numbers of hygienists in our state have always demanded more than two representatives on the body that governs them and makes the rules. Dental Hygiene is one of the few professions that does not govern itself.

It is timely to suggest that a separate board be established to govern the Dental Hygiene Profession. This Bill would do just that. However I would amend the name to better reflect what the Board does. Since dental boards are not in the business of examining applicants for licensure any longer, that being handled by Regional Boards, the name Dental Hygiene Board would better reflect what the new Board would do.

As a profession, dental hygiene has always strived for improved standards for itself when it comes to education, competency and licensure. Serving the public in ways to achieve better access to care has always been an important goal.

Please give consideration to supporting this Bill

Sincerely,

Sierra Spruce, RDH

Ocean View, Hawaii -- [sierraspruce@gmail.com](mailto:sierraspruce@gmail.com)

Past President, Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association

Past President, Texas Dental Hygienists' Association



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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2678 on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 8:32:17 AM

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**SB2678**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Eladnani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2678**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tania Tang Mejia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2678**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teri A Matsumura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 8:23:44 AM

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**SB2678**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marian Grey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: There is no reason to approve this Bill. As a former Registered Dental Assistant (over 22 years in California) and as a former member of the State of Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners as a public member, serving 2 terms of 4 years each, I'm speaking from experience. The Dental Hygienists are adding safety to the public, by assuring that actions and measures are not taken by the Dentists that might allow unlicensed people to do procedures that should not be done by unlicensed people. Secondly in these tight times, why would anyone want to expand government to form a new Board? While on the Board, 6 of the 8 years were on a committee, re-writing RULES & REGULATIONS. It was an eye-opener to me as to what the Dentists were trying to get added to what they could have assistants handle. Things that maybe a Hygienist could safely do, and even though we had written that it was not allowed, they kept coming back trying to go around it. For the public safety, there is no reason to approve this bill. For these times there is no need for another Board to be formed.

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