



LATE

**HPCA**

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

**Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**  
The Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair

**Testimony on Senate Bill 3085**

**Relating to Health**

**Submitted by Dustin Stevens, Public Affairs and Policy Director**  
**February 17, 2016, 9:00 a.m., Room 229**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, offers comments on Senate Bill 3085, which seeks to clarify the requirements for licensure as a dental hygienist and limits the scope of activities performed by dental assistants.

In 2015, the Department of Health released a report entitled Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings, which highlighted some of the health inequity and access to care issues that currently exist in the state. Among them were:

- From 2009-2011, only 41% of pregnant women, 29% of pregnant low-income women, and 27% of women in Medicaid or QUEST visited a dentist during their pregnancy.
- In 2012, 52% of low-income adults saw a dentist as compared to 82% of higher income adults.
- In that same year, 51% of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, while only 32% of high-income adults did.

Our concern is that if the bill is passed as drafted, it will continue to heighten the disparities that exist in the state. Strict adherence would result in increased costs and decreased patient loads, serving to both overburden existing dental infrastructure as well as diminish access, especially in neighbor island and rural communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 3:12 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** texaninhawaii@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB3085 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM

**LATE**

**Categories:** Late

**SB3085**

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 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	No

Comments: I support the intent of SB3085 to further clarify the dental hygiene practice act already in place. It would standardize the level of certification in the administration of intra-oral local anesthesia in the licensing process, thus increasing public safety. However, because the incidence of childhood tooth decay is a significant problem in Hawaii, I would not be opposed to dental assistants applying topical fluoride varnish, provided the following qualifiers are in place: successfully passing a training course, as opposed to on-the-job training; applied under the direct supervision of dentist; and applied only in public health settings other than traditional private practice dental office settings where dental hygienists are applying a variety of preventive chemical agents as directed by the employer dentist.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

LATE

baker2 - Lia/Eve

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 9:09 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** rivierra@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB3085 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM

**SB3085**

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosie	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: State hygienists do not oppose dental assistants applying fluoride. As an educator and licensed dental hygienist, I believe that dental assistants should be required to have formal training/certification for the said duties. Duties such as these are routinely practiced by dental assistants on the mainland. The difference here is that there is no certification that is recognized or required. All services that a dental team provides must ensure patient safety. Obtaining certification/training will be the first step to safeguarding services rendered. The knowledge and skill must be determined by formal training where evaluation and competency can be determined. Thank you

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

