

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 02 2017

RE: S.B. No. 380

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,
to which was referred S.B. No. 380 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to permit licensed dental hygienists in the State to operate under general, rather than direct, supervision of a licensed dentist.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association, Lāna'i Community Health Center, Kona Coast Dental Care, and eighteen individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Board of Dental Examiners and Hawaii Dental Association.

Your Committee finds that under existing law, licensed dental hygienists must operate under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist in most circumstances, meaning a supervising licensed dentist must examine each patient prior to treatment, assign and review each treatment, and remain physically present in the office or facility while the procedure is being performed. This requirement is time consuming for the dentist and restrictive for the dental hygienist.

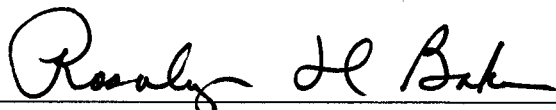
Your Committee further finds that forty-five states authorize dental hygienists to work under some degree of general supervision, meaning a dentist must authorize a dental hygienist



to perform procedures, but need not be present in the treatment facility during the performance of those procedures. Your Committee notes that existing state law permits general supervision of dental hygienists in public health settings, such as nonprofit health clinics, nursing homes, and adult day care centers or assisted living facilities. Your Committee concludes that, since dental hygienists are currently permitted to work under the general supervision of dentists in public health settings, these highly trained professionals should be able to do so in private practice settings as well. Accordingly, this measure permits licensed dental hygienists in Hawaii to operate under general supervision of a licensed dentist.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 380 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Health,



ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
CPH

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB380	CPH	2/24/17		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit				
2312 2311 2310 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	/			
CHANG, Stanley	/			
ESPERO, Will	/			
IHARA, Jr., Les	/			
KIDANI, Michelle N.				/
RUDERMAN, Russell E.				/
TOTAL	5			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Clarence K. Nishihara</i>				
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