

# GM 681

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Dental Examiners, Gubernatorial Nominee, DENNIS NAGATA, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Report Title: Board of Dental Examiners

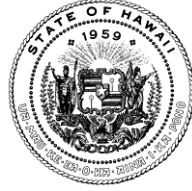
Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

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

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2017

Friday, April 7, 2017  
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 681.**

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

My name is Sandra Matsushima and I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Dental Examiners ("Board"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 681, regarding the **reappointment** of Dennis Nagata, D.D.S., to the Board. The Department supports the confirmation of Dr. Nagata's reappointment to the Board.

Dr. Nagata has been licensed as a dentist since September 19, 1979, and his license is current, active, and in good standing. He has served on the Board as a dentist member since July 2013. Dr. Nagata is a devoted member of the Board and he has attended 22 out of 25 meetings.

Dr. Nagata is a valuable member and contributes greatly to the discussions at the Board's meetings. As a former Clinical Instructor at the Las Vegas Advanced Dental Studies, Dr. Nagata has actively participated in meeting discussions and demonstrates that he is prepared for the matters that are on the Board's agendas. In addition, by sharing insights that he has gained over his many years of experience as a licensed dentist in active practice, Dr. Nagata has made significant contributions to the Board's deliberations. Dr. Nagata volunteers his time and energy by attending legislative hearings and is committed to keeping the Board informed with current trends in the practice of dentistry.

We believe that Dr. Nagata's interest in serving the Board, his knowledge and experience in the profession, and his desire to contribute to the profession will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Board.

Furthermore, Dr. Nagata serves as an examiner for dental licensure exams, which greatly assists with the process to determine whether a person is qualified to practice dentistry and attends national and regional examinations and meetings.

The Department supports the confirmation of Dennis Nagata, D.D.S., to the Board of Dental Examiners, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**From:** [Randal Morita](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Recommendation for Dr Dennis Nagata (GM#681)  
**Date:** Sunday, April 2, 2017 9:23:00 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I have known Board of Dental Examiners applicant, Dr Dennis Nagata, for over 40 years. We are colleagues in numerous dental study clubs, including Hawaii Dental Forum and Dental Ohana Study Group. He is active in the Hawaii Dental Association and the Honolulu County Dental Society, heading and involved in many of the committees. I am an Orthodontist and have worked with him on numerous dental interdisciplinary cases, which are very complex. I respect his skill and knowledge, he is second to none in the State of Hawaii. He also teaches at the Las Vegas Institute of higher dental learning.

I can assure you Dr Nagata has the the highest skills and integrity, caring for the people of Hawaii. He is passionate about taking continuing education and would be an asset to the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners. I give my highest recommendation to reappoint him and ask you to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Randal D. Morita, D.D.S.

Dental Board of Examiners,

I first met Dr. Nagata in 2011 when I moved to Oahu to begin practicing Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. We immediately became good friends as we share many of the same qualities and beliefs and this has also carried over into our professional relationship.

His reputation for his clinical skills and expertise were not well known to me when we first started working together. After working with him and several other dentists in this state for the past six years, I can confidently say he is one of the best dentist's technically I can think of. On a daily basis, I see the quality of work from an array of dentists and can confidently say his combination of manual dexterity, artistry, and clinical knowledge is unmatched. His treatment planning is well thought out and very comprehensive. I rarely see an overhang, over/under-contoured restoration, short margin, etc in any of his patient's mouths or radiographs. I'm not sure if it's his treatment planning or his lab but his esthetic cases are phenomenal. I would without hesitation refer my family to him.

However, what really sets Dennis apart from the other skilled practitioner's is his loyalty and honesty not only to his friends and colleagues but to his patients. From the beginning, Dennis has always shown me the proper way to take care of patients...treat them like your own family. He is very fair and the ultimate advocate for his patients and their best interest. I notice Dennis never takes a short cut to save costs like I've seen some other dentists do. He always seems to do what is right for the patient no matter what the costs. If there is a complication or set back, he will do whatever it takes to correct the situation whether it means staying late or paying out of his own pocket. I have modeled my own practice of dentistry and treating patients after watching him over the years.

With the type of demanding patients at his practice, he is, and must be, well accustomed to excellent customer service. I think his track record is a sentiment to his success with this difficult patient base. I have no doubt Dennis has the patient's best interest at heart and will be the ultimate advocate for all people of Hawaii. I highly recommend him for the Dental Board of Examiners without reservation.

Mahalo,

James Michino, DMD  
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates  
1580 Makaloa Street #725  
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808-973-3747

**GM681**

**Dennis Nagata: Board of Certification of Dental Examiners**

**(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?**

I want to help maintain the standard of care in dentistry for the people of Hawaii and ensure they are treated in a safe and clinically competent dental setting.

**(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?**

Use my experience to help the board make good decisions on situations and laws on behalf of the consumer.

**(3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?**

I feel based on my 38 years of experience that I can help evaluate practitioners who are competent clinicians for the public. I am very familiar with procedures that will provide long term success treatment for patients.

**(4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.**

I have taught dentistry at a post graduate program in a facility named Las Vegas Institute aka LVI global since 1996. The knowledge and skills I learned as an instructor and participant in the teaching programs gave me a good sense of dental skills required to maintain a safe and effective standard of care for the dental patient.

**(5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service**

The dental profession is always trying to improve patient care and safety. I personally take over 90+ hours of continuing education per year. I want to make sure we keep the public safe, yet I want to keep elevating the standard of care with improvements in materials, techniques and technology.

**(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.**

Experienced, Objective and Open minded.

**(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.**

I am presently serving as a member of the board and I was an examiner for licensing in the past before serving on the board.

- (8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?**

No.