

HB374 HD2

Measure Title: RELATING TO DENTAL ASSISTANTS.
Report Title: Dental Assistants; Licensing
Description: Requires the Auditor to conduct a sunrise analysis of establishing licensure and certification requirements for dental assistants. (HB374 HD2)
Companion:
Package: None
Current Referral: CPH, WAM
Introducer(s): EVANS

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

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

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2017

Tuesday, March 14, 2017
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 374, H.D. 2, RELATING TO DENTAL
ASSISTANTS.**

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

My name is Paul Guevara, D.M.D., M.D.S., Chairperson of the Board of Dental Examiners ("Board"). I appreciate the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 374, H.D. 2, Relating to Dental Assistants. This measure requires the Auditor to conduct a sunrise analysis of establishing licensure and certification requirements for dental assistants.

The Board has not had an opportunity to review this version of the bill. However, the Board believes that Haw. Rev. Stat. §26H-6 requires that a sunrise analysis requires a referral by concurrent resolution that identifies a specific legislative bill to be analyzed. This bill does not provide a regulatory framework upon which analysis would be performed.

Moreover, conducting a sunrise analysis for establishing licensure for dental assistants and certification requirements is not necessary. Presently, the University of Hawaii, Kapiolani Community College, offers a dental assistant certification program

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accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Therefore, the Board recommends deferral of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 374, H.D. 2.



Hawaii Dental Association

To: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health
Time/Date: 9:00 a.m., March 14, 2017
Location: Capitol Conference Room 229
Re: **HB 374, HD1 RELATING TO DENTAL ASSISTANTS**

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the committee! My name is Dr. Chris Lee and I serve as the president of the Hawaii Dental Association, a professional association comprised of nearly 1,000 member dentists. The Hawaii Dental Association (HDA) is a statewide professional membership organization representing dentists practicing in Hawaii and licensed by the State of Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners. HDA members are committed to protecting the oral health and well-being of all of the people of Hawaii, from keiki to kupuna and everyone in between.

We are writing to respectfully comment on HB 374, HD1 which would initiate a sunrise analysis of establishing licensure and certification requirements for dental assistants. We recognize the legislature's intent to ensure the health and safety of Hawaii residents. Likewise, the Hawaii Dental Association is committed to improve oral health in Hawaii. As such, we look forward to contributing the dialog around dental assistants and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you on key policy initiatives to accomplish those goals.

In addition, and consistent with our longstanding public positions, we believe that water fluoridation would make significant contributions to improving oral health in our state. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Dr. Chris Lee, D.D.S
President, Hawaii Dental Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 12:46 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: Jusnoe@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB374 on Mar 14, 2017 09:00AM*

HB374

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for CPH on Mar 14, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noelani Greene	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

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Laura A. Mallery-Sayre, R.D.H., M.S.D.H.Ed.
Educational Consultant
P. O. Box 1285
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808-325-5456

March 12, 2017

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Dear Senator Baker, Senator Nishihara and Committee members:

I speak in support of HB374 HD2 relating to the certification or licensure of Dental Assistants. I believe that the original language in HB374

*“Prohibit anyone from ordering a person without a dental hygienist license to perform services or procedures within the scope of practice of dental hygiene.” **should be restored in this Bill to ensure that the current rules and regulations prohibiting dental assistants from providing dental hygiene procedures be maintained until such time that dental assistants are licensed,***

As a dental hygiene educator with a Master’s in Dental Hygiene Education and as a dental practice manager of 45 years experience, I have previously been employed by dental schools, dental hygiene schools and dental assisting schools to train their students. I have also served The Hawaii State RICCO Dental Advisory Board (and continue to do so) for over 25 years. I believe that it is imperative to pass this measure to ensure the safety of the public that is served by the Hawaii State House of Representatives.

In the State of Hawaii, there currently exists no regulatory process for certifying or for licensing dental assistants. Most dental assistants are trained on the job by other dental assistants that were trained on the job and the majority lack any type of formal training.

In contrast, the dental hygienists that are educated at the University of Hawaii at Manoa have four years of college education to prepare them with a BS in Dental Hygiene. Strict academic guidelines are in place for these students to meet the accreditations standards established by CODA, The Commission on Dental Accreditation, which serves the public and profession by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs. Accreditation is the ultimate source of consumer protection for prospective students. It is often a prerequisite for governmental funding. Graduation from an accredited program is almost always stipulated by state law and is an eligibility requirement for licensure and/or certification examinations. In short, accreditation of a school or program is a student’s most important source of independent validation that the program has at least enough educational value to be “approved” by a credible (expertise-based), independent (free of outside influence), reliable (consistently applied standards) organization that has the U.S. Department of Education’s approval. Upon graduation from an accredited dental hygiene program, dental hygiene students are required to take a

National Board Exam to ensure their knowledge base as well as a Regional Board Examination to test their clinical skills before they can be licensed to practice. None of these requirements are in place for a dental assistant in Hawaii.

It is my educated opinion that no dentist should be directing a dental assistant to perform dental hygiene duties on his or her patients outside of the scope of educational requirements and Hawaii Statute as these duties are clearly outlined to protect the public from uneducated and unqualified personnel. For dentists to testify that they are already allowing dental assistants to perform fluoride procedures on their patients, procedures not allowed in the scope of practice set forth by this legislative authority means that they are already practicing outside of the law. This makes this Bill even more important to pass. This Bill containing the original language while still seeking to conduct a sunrise analysis on dental assisting licensure will ensure the protection of the dental consumer, will prevent the delegation of dental hygiene duties to unlicensed dental auxiliaries, and will further delineate the supervisory role of dentists in the State of Hawaii, thus preventing future misunderstanding of duties and scope of practice of dental hygienists and dental assistants.

I strongly urge the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health to pass and not defer HB374 HD2 with inclusive language for the above reasons. If I can be of further service to this committee, I am available at 808-325-5456 or 808-640-9456.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Mallery-Sayre, RDH, MSDHEd

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 9:22 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: dgsinhawaii@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB374 on Mar 14, 2017 09:00AM

HB374

Submitted on: 3/12/2017

Testimony for CPH on Mar 14, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana G. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please restore and pass this bill including the previous language and the requirement of a sunrise analysis. therefore maintaining public safety.

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Re: HB 374 HD2 RELATING TO DENTAL ASSISTANTS

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, & HEALTH

Senator Rosalynn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Conference Room 229

Dear Honorable Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Nishihara, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

This testimony is in support of HB 374 HD2, as amended, with RESTORATION of language to *“Prohibit anyone from ordering a person without a dental hygienist license to perform services or procedures within the scope of practice of dental hygiene.”* This language serves to protect the public, while the Auditor conducts such sunrise analysis of establishing licensure and certification requirements for dental assistants, required by the amendment HB374 HD2.

My name is Diane Brucato, RDH, EF, BS, FAADH. A dental hygienist since 1979, I have been a practicing Dental Hygienist in good standing on the island of Hawaii since 1992, living in Hilo with the privilege to have practiced in Kona and Hilo. I have taken an active role in leadership; volunteered in my community, island, and state; was an Anesthesia Examiner for Western Regional Examining Board; have maintained membership in the American Association of Dental Boards since the mid 1980's; **attended almost every Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners (HBODE); meeting since 2007;** and twice applied for a position on the HBODE; and am now serving my seventh year on the Regulated Industries Complaints Office's (RICO) Dental Advisory Committee.

Thank you for the thought and consideration in hearing HB374 HD2. It is important in that it has the potential to ensure standardized education and regulation of dental assistants, thereby increasing public safety. Unfortunately, the current amendment eliminated pertinent language, therefore, maintaining a current threat to public safety. The previous language prevented the drafting of rules by the HBODE that conflict with §447-3(b) and would allow unlicensed personnel to perform duties that have required standardized education, testing, and a license to practice Dental Hygiene, as defined in said statute. This testimony will include history as support.

History:

In November of 2007, the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners (HBODE) began a **complete update of the entire Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 79**, in order to bring them **CURRENT** with HR Statutes and remove redundancies. In January, 2008, a draft containing proposed language to allow expanded duties for dental assistants with no standardized education, testing, or certification, appeared for consideration with no history of public meeting, forcing Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association (HDHA) to put the HBODE on notice for violation of Sunshine Law. HDHA demonstrated these duties were unsafe and in clear violation of HRS 447-3(b). The HBODE became careful to comply with the Sunshine Law and the inclusion of those expanded duties was abandoned, although Hawaii Dental Association persisted with testimony to include them. That process required constant vigilance for public safety. **Only THREE years ago, in January 2014, the result of that extensive Rules Change process was implemented.**

Late 2015, through a letter from Dan Fujii, DDS, it came to the attention of HBODE that medical assistants were applying fluoride varnish on children, which HBODE ASSUMED was allowable. According to Donald Balasa, JD, MBA, the American Association of Medical Assistants' Chief Executive Officer and Legal Counsel (Questions may be directed to AAMA Executive Director, Donald A. Balasa, JD, MBA, at dbalasa@aama-ntl.org or 800/228-2262):

Medical assistants cannot be delegated any duties that:

- (1) constitute the practice of medicine or require the skill and knowledge of a licensed physician;
- (2) are restricted in state law to other licensed health care professionals;**
- (3) require the medical assistant to exercise independent professional judgment or to make clinical assessments, evaluations, or interpretations.

In addition, the HBODE acknowledged that there are dental assistants placing fluoride varnish on children's teeth in many dental offices. **Rather than advise the HBODE to initiate or take disciplinary action against the pediatricians and dentists in violation, who are putting public safety at risk, and contrary to the interpretation of previous Deputy Attorneys General (DAG), the current DAG cited the last line of HRS 448-3(b) "Duties of the dental assistant and regulatory directives shall be delineated under rules which the board of dental examiners may from time to time adopt" as a loophole in the Statutes to enable the HBODE to create rules in violation of HRS 447-3(b) to achieve their goals with no regard to public safety.**

In fact, at the January 25th, 2016, Rules meeting, **the DAG encouraged the HBODE to delete the section of HAR 16-79-69.5 after the semicolon, ultimately deleting the public safety net from the rules.**

§16-79-69.5 Prohibited duties of dental assistants.

A dental assistant shall not perform the following intra-oral functions or any other activity deemed to be irreversible as to cause change in the affected hard or soft tissues and is permanent or may require reconstructive or corrective procedures; and any other activity which represents the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene or requires the knowledge, skill, and training of a licensed dentist or licensed dental hygienist:

As a result, HBODE currently has proposed a rule to allow dental assistants to apply any type of fluoride, "the application of a chemical preventive agent to the coronal surfaces of teeth", which is in violation of 447-3 (b):

§447-3 Employment of and practice by dental hygienists.

(b) Clinical dental hygiene may be practiced by a licensed dental hygienist. The practice of clinical dental hygiene is defined as the removal of hard and soft deposits and stains from the portion of the crown and root surfaces to the depth of the gingival sulcus, polishing natural and restored surfaces of teeth, the application of preventive chemical agents to the coronal surfaces of teeth, which chemical agents have been approved by the board of dental examiners, and the use of mouth washes approved by the board,...

The HBODE has proposed this allowable duty requiring **only on the job training** by a dentist, without standardized education, testing, or means of regulation. The reason (cited by Dr. Chun of the HBODE) is

to lower cost of applying fluoride and increase access, because dental assistants' hourly salary is much lower than dental hygienists' hourly salary. Fluoride costs about a dollar a dose and takes, at most, three minutes to apply. Yet, the fees for applying topical fluoride vary from \$15-30.00. Whether or not dental assistants are allowed this duty will not change the fees that dentists charge, and therefore, will not save the public money or increase access. It will only increase risk.

Fluoride is a well-accepted preventive agent in the hands of licensed professionals. **It is also a known poison with specific contraindications with specific products on specific patients. Serious known risks include toxic overdose and even anaphylactic shock. Children especially, deserve the safe application of various fluoride treatments by licensed professionals, who possess the knowledge, skill, training, and licensure, and, who understand the chemical ingredients, risks, and contraindications.**

In conclusion, HB374 HD2 would require the Auditor to conduct a sunrise analysis of establishing licensure and certification requirements for dental assistants. This could certainly serve to ensure standardized education and regulation of dental assistants, thereby increasing public safety, and I support that. **In the meantime, however, the language in this bill that served to protect the public has been eliminated.** During the time it takes for the Auditor to conduct a sunrise analysis, the public deserves to be protected from allowing unlicensed personnel to perform duties that have, to date, required standardized education, testing, stringent licensure, and continuing education.

Please protect the public by restoring the language that disallows the proposal or drafting any rules that would allow unlicensed personnel to perform duties that have, to date, required standardized education, testing, stringent licensure, and continuing education. This measure had the potential to eliminate redundant, time-consuming re-visitation by the HBODE, and prevent constant threat to public safety by unregulated personnel. Please restore and pass this bill including the previous language and the requirement of a sunrise analysis.

Thank you for your 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 (2010-present)

Member, American Association of Dental Boards

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 1:42 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: gerrainet@excite.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB374 on Mar 14, 2017 09:00AM*

HB374

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for CPH on Mar 14, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerraine Hignite	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

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