

HB563 HD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS.

Report Title: Dental Hygienists; Dentists; Supervision

Description: Permits licensed dental hygienists in the State to operate under general, rather than direct, supervision of a licensed dentist in specified circumstances that protect patient health and safety. (HB563 HD1)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s): BELATTI, AQUINO, EVANS, TAKAYAMA, TAKUMI

**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. 563, H.D. 1, RELATING TO DENTAL
HYGIENISTS.**

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. 563, H.D. 1, Relating to Dental Hygienists, which permits licensed dental hygienists in the State to operate under general, rather than direct, supervision of a licensed dentist.

The Board supports House Bill No. 563, H.D. 1, which includes language clarifying that a licensed dental hygienist may practice under the general supervision of a licensed dentist pursuant to an existing treatment plan with respect to patients of record who have had an examination by the licensed dentist; provided that a licensed dental hygienist shall not perform any irreversible procedure or administer any intra-oral block anesthesia while under general supervision.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 563, H.D. 1.



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 563, HD 1, RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

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 **comment on HB 563, HD 1, relating to dental hygienists.** 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. The current version of this bill includes certain public safety protections which we request to continue to be included in this bill, such as, at a minimum, that general supervision shall be permitted only for a patient of record with an exam within the last year and that no block anesthesia or irreversible procedure shall be performed.

We 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 12:41 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: Jusnoe@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB563 on Mar 14, 2017 09:00AM*

HB563

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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Re: HB 563 HD 1 RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS

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 **strong support** of **HB 563 HD 1**.

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.

HB 563 HD 1 is an important bill for access to care. It is important to note that Dentists who oppose this bill are free to continue to supervise their Dental Hygienists under direct supervision, while those who support it may choose to operate with general supervision, as all dentists are free to run their practices as they wish, within the limits of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

It has been my observation, that when a Dentist has the misfortune of becoming seriously ill or injured, or simply has the flu, everything comes to a stop at the dental office. Because the Dental Hygienists are bound to work under direct supervision of the Dentists, they cannot even see the patients of record for re-care appointments. Many of these patients are consequently at risk because of systemic complications. If they try to go to another office, they find many other offices are booked well in advance and they cannot be seen for months. Their conditions break down.

In addition, the Dental Hygienists and teams (except perhaps the receptionist) are out of work until the doctor returns, creating financial hardship for them, as well as the Dentist. If the Dental Hygienists could work under general supervision, the Hygienists and office staff could continue working, patients of record could access continued care, and the Dentists could still have some income to help with ongoing expenses during personal crisis.

Dental Hygienists have been practicing under general supervision in public health settings without incident for many years in Hawaii. They are well educated, licensed professionals,

trained in Basic Life Support, who know their limitations and can call their doctor anytime for consultation when necessary.

This bill creates a win/win/win for dentists, office teams, and the patients they serve. Thank you for your serious consideration to pass this bill.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 1:44 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: gerrainet@excite.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB563 on Mar 14, 2017 09:00AM

HB563

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: Access to care is very important, especially in rural areas.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 10:03 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: dgsinhawaii@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB563 on Mar 14, 2017 09:00AM*

HB563

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
Diana G. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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FRANK H. SAYRE, D.D.S.
P.O. Box 1285
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745

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:

My name is Frank Sayre and I have been a private practice restorative dentist in Kailua-Kona for the past 41 years. I am writing in support of HB563 HD1, which would provide better access to dental care for the citizens of our State. This would allow the dentist to determine if his or her dental hygienist(s) would be able to practice in a general supervision setting in private practice.

Up until now we have had direct supervision, which requires that the dentist be physically present in the office in order for the dental hygienist to be able to see patients. If the dentist needs to be out of the office for a continuing education course, for a medical appointment, for a family matter or for an illness, the office has to be closed down and the patients cancelled and rescheduled. In November 2009 I was hospitalized at Queen's Medical Center for 26 days for malignant melanoma surgery. You can only imagine the inconvenience to our patients and to our staff members who had to contact them to reschedule their appointments.

At this point 45 out of the 50 states have some form of general supervision. Hawaii is only one of 5 states that don't allow the dentist the option of having his or her patients seen when she or he is not physically present in the office. Our dental hygienist professionals are well trained and have to pass a national board examination as well as either a regional or state board examination in order to be licensed in Hawaii. I believe that the dentists should have the final say in which patients could be seen under general supervision in their office.

Thank you for your consideration and, hopefully, your support of HB563 HD1.

Frank H.Sayre, D.D.S.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 11:52 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: nschun444@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB563 on Mar 14, 2017 09:00AM

HB563

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
Norman S. Chun	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This measure should be deferred until all parties affected by this legislation can be consulted. The ADA has data that is important and useful that will help guide the dental community to a better decision. The HDA is not convinced that all the safeguards have been implemented in this bill.

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