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**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2372**  
**RELATING TO THE SUPERVISION OF LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENISTS IN A**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH SETTING.**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Hearing Date: February 14, 2018                      Room Number: 329

1    **Fiscal Implications:** None

2    **Department Testimony:** The Department strongly supports this measure, which is part of the  
3    Governor’s Administrative Package. This bill only amends subsection 447-3(d), Hawaii Revised  
4    Statutes, the general supervision requirements of dental hygienists in a public health setting, not  
5    in other types of settings such as private offices. H.B. 2372 will support and promote the  
6    expanded access to dental services for the underserved and vulnerable populations in community  
7    settings through community-based programs such as the virtual dental home. Patient safeguards  
8    will still be maintained though the general supervision requirements in a public health setting.

9            Amending the general supervision requirements by dentists for dental hygienists in public  
10    health settings will aid in removing dental practice barriers to providing dental services in public  
11    health settings. Refining “public health setting” and specifically permitting a dental hygienist,  
12    under the general supervision of a dentist, to perform teeth cleanings, x-rays, intra-oral or extra-  
13    oral photographs in public health settings will improve access to dental care.

14            Oral health is a critical component of our general health and well-being. Poor oral health  
15    not only adversely effects a person’s general health, but also impacts a person’s ability to eat,  
16    speak, learn, work and communicate. Hawaii residents have a significantly higher prevalence of  
17    tooth decay than the national average. The “Hawaii Smiles 2015” report confirmed that  
18    Hawaii’s children have the highest prevalence of tooth decay in the United States. There are also

1 significant oral health disparities by income, uninsured status, race/ethnicity, age, disability, and  
2 geography in Hawaii.

3           The Department of Health 2015 “Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings” report identified  
4 eight strategies to improve oral health, and includes exploring innovative, evidence-based  
5 strategies to expand access to the underserved, high-risk populations including teledentistry.  
6 Furthermore, the “Hawaii Smiles 2015” report identified key strategies to improve the oral health  
7 for children in Hawaii. The strategies are grouped into three general categories: community-  
8 based prevention programs, screening and referral services, and restorative dental care. The  
9 implementation of these key oral health strategies are essential to improving the oral health of  
10 Hawaii residents.

11           Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2018

Wednesday, February 14, 2018  
8:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2372, RELATING TO THE SUPERVISION OF  
LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENISTS IN A PUBLIC HEALTH SETTING.**

TO THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMITTEE:

My name is Paul Guevara, D.M.D., M.D.S., and I am the Chairperson of the Board of Dental Examiners (“Board”). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2372, which is a companion to S.B. 2799. The Board supports this measure and offers amendments to clarify dental services provided by the licensed dental hygienist operating under general supervision in a public health setting.

H.B. 2372 allows licensed dental hygienists to practice under the general or direct supervision of any licensed dentist providing dental services in a public health setting.

The Board recommends the following amendments to this measure:

On page 1, lines 3-13:

“(d) [A] Notwithstanding subsection 447-1(f), a licensed dental hygienist may operate under the general supervision [as provided in section 447-1(f)] of any licensed dentist providing dental services in a public health setting. As used in this subsection, general supervision means the supervising licensed dentist is available for consultation and shall be responsible for all delegated acts and procedures performed by a licensed dental hygienist.”

On page 2, lines 6-7:

“. . . education, dental screenings, teeth cleanings, intra-oral or extra-oral photographs, x-rays if indicated, and fluoride applications . . .”

House Bill No. 2372  
February 14, 2018  
Page 2

On page 2, lines 14-16:

“A licensed dental hygienist shall refer individuals that are seen in a public health setting to a dental facility for further dental care.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 2372.

**HB-2372**

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 11:59:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ellie Kelley-Miyashiro	Hawai Dental Hygienists' Association	Support	No

Comments:

House Committee on Health and Human Services

HB 2372

Ellie Kelley-Miyashiro, RDH, BS

Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association, Regulations and Practice Chairperson

Chairperson Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association (HDHA) fully supports HB 2372. We would like to congratulate you on your leadership in clarifying the scope of practice afforded Dental Hygienists' under general supervision in Public Health settings. Having one of the worst dental decay rates in the nation, Hawaii's underserved adults and children can only benefit from legislation allowing them the greatest access to care.

- Currently, the Hawaii dental practice act only allows general supervision of a patient of record, has an existing treatment plan, and has been examined by a licensed dentist. The general supervision requirements are basically identical for private and public health settings.

- By amending the general supervision requirements by dentists for dental hygienists in public health settings to reflect the law prior to July 1, 2017, it will help in removing dental practice barriers to providing dental services in public health settings.

- This bill also refines the definition of a “public health setting”, and specifically permits a dental hygienist under the general supervision of a dentist to perform teeth cleanings, x-rays, intra-oral or extra-oral photographs in public health settings. It also requires a dental hygienist to take feasible action to refer individuals that are seen in a public health setting to a dental home. These amendments help in supporting and promoting the expanded access to dental services for the underserved and vulnerable populations in public health settings.

As the largest association representing Hawaii’s licensed Dental Hygienists’, HDHA strongly supports HB 2372 to address the prevention of dental disease among Hawaii’s people in Public Health settings.

Thank you for your consideration.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Wednesday, February 14, 2018; 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 2372, RELATING TO THE SUPERVISION OF LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENISTS IN A PUBLIC HEALTH SETTING.**

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 2372, RELATING TO THE SUPERVISION OF LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENISTS IN A PUBLIC HEALTH SETTING.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would clarify the scope of practice of dental hygienists working in a public health setting by:

- (1) Permitting general supervision of dental hygienists (in addition to direct supervision) by a licensed dentist; provided that the licensed dentist is available for consultation;
- (2) Prohibiting the dental hygienist from performing any "irreversible procedure" or administering any intra-oral block anesthesia under general supervision;
- (3) Clarifying that the supervising licensed dentist be responsible for all delegated acts and procedures performed by the licensed dental hygienist;
- (4) Providing that a "public health setting" include a public school, a community center, and a public housing facility;
- (5) Authorizing the licensed dental hygienist in a public health setting to perform teeth cleanings, x-rays, intra-oral or extra-oral photographs, and permitting services to be performed on individuals who are not yet patients of record, have not been examined by a licensed dentist, or do not have a treatment plan.

Furthermore, the bill would direct all licensed dental hygienists to take feasible actions to refer individuals that are seen in a public health setting to a dental home.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health by creating a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive

**Testimony on House Bill No. 2372**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2018; 8:30 a.m.**

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system of health, FQHCs experience even greater challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified health care professionals to service the ever-growing volume of patients.

Preventative and restorative dental care is an essential component of effective primary health care. In particular, preventive dentistry emphasizes the importance of ongoing hygiene procedures and daily practices to prevent tooth decay and other dental diseases and conditions. Effective preventive dentistry combines at-home oral care by patients with chairside treatments and counseling by dental professionals.

Oral diseases can interfere with eating, speaking, daily activities and self-esteem. In children, severe decay can affect growth and development. Preventive dentistry can result in less extensive – and less expensive – treatment for any dental conditions that may develop, and help you keep your natural teeth for a lifetime.

In 2015, the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) issued its report entitled, "*Hawaii Oral Health, Key Findings*", in which they reported, among other things, that:

- There appear to be substantial dental health disparities in Hawaii, with low-income residents more likely to have dental problems and less likely to see a dentist each year.
- Hawaii children enrolled in the publicly funded Medicaid program, QUEST, see dentists more often than national estimates. However, Hawaii children receive more dental treatment services rather than preventive care compared to national estimates.
- Most pregnant women in Hawaii do not see a dentist even though national health and dental groups assure that dental visits are safe and recommended to help prevent dental problems in the women and their developing babies.
- Many Hawaii residents are seeking care at hospital emergency departments for dental problems, although dental services are generally not available there.

The HPCA commends the DOH for proposing this bill as a practical means of expanding the accessibility of preventative dental care in public health settings. By improving access to preventive dental care for Hawaii's low income populations, the State will be proactively taking steps to improve the overall health of Hawaii's most vulnerable populations.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT** this bill and urge your favorable consideration.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.





An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 14, 2018

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: HB 2372 – Relating to the Supervision of Licensed Dental Hygienists in a Public Health Setting

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 2372, which allows licensed dental hygienists to practice under the general or direct supervision of any licensed dentist providing dental services in a public health setting. HMSA supports the intent of this Bill, to remove barriers to providing dental services to underserved and vulnerable populations in public health settings.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of HB 2372.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong  
Vice-President, Government Relations



Date: February 12, 2018

To: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Trish La Chica, Policy and Advocacy Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Re: **Support for HB 2372, Relating to the Supervision of Licensed Dental Hygienists in a Public Health Setting**

Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30 am at Capitol Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 2372, which would allow licensed dental hygienists to practice under the general or direct supervision in a public health setting.

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i. HIPHI weaves silos into working relationships as an effective network, ensuring that we come together across sectors to advance collaboration and innovation in public health and work towards making Hawai'i the healthiest place to live.

Oral health in our state is a public health crisis, with Hawaii receiving a failing grade of "F" in three recent oral health report card released by The Pew Center for the States. In addition the lack of Medicaid adult dental benefits has resulted in many low-income adults only seeking dental care for acute conditions that have been allowed to reach a crisis stage. Expanding public health settings to public schools, community centers, and public housing in which dental hygienists can provide care would help to address this crisis. In addition, a 2015 Department of Health report entitled Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings revealed that:

- Only 52% of low-income adults in Hawai'i saw a dentist, compared to 82% of high-income adults.
- 51% of low-income adults lost teeth due to dental disease, compared to only 32% of high-income adults.
- In 2012, there were more than 3,000 emergency room visits due to preventable dental problems, 67% more than in 2006. As a result, aggregate hospital charges for dental emergency visits were \$8,500,000 compared to \$4,000,000 in 2006.

The goal of public health is to improve and protect the health of individuals, families, and communities. It looks at the health of a population as a whole rather than on the treatment of an individual. Barriers to oral health care include limited income and/or no dental insurance, transportation issues, and the

lack of specialty services especially in neighbor islands. In addition, special patient populations, such as those with developmental and physical disabilities and older adults who are homebound, may face additional obstacles when seeking oral health care. Allowing dental hygienists to work in various community settings beyond the dentist's office can begin to address these disparities and improve access to oral health care.

HB 2372 expands the settings in which dental hygienists are allowed to practice allowing more people to receive the oral health care services they need. Please pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish'.

Trish La Chica, MPA  
Policy and Advocacy Director

**HB-2372**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 8:11:04 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shere Saneishi-Kim	Hawaii Dental Service	Support	No

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB 2372  
Relating to the Supervision of Licensed Dental Hygienists in a Public Health Setting**

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and other members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services:

The shortage of licensed dentists in rural neighbor island locations has made access to quality oral health care for all Hawaii residents an ongoing challenge in our state. HB 2372 addresses this issue by making oral health care more accessible. Studies show there is a connection between oral health and overall health: when we improve the oral health of individuals, this improves their overall health and this will have a positive health impact in communities.

Currently, licensed dental hygienists are allowed to only perform certain duties under the general supervision of licensed dentists. Hawaii Dental Service, the state's largest dental benefits provider, fully supports this bill which seeks to amend to broaden the scope of services that can be performed by licensed dental hygienists in various public health settings, while holding the supervising licensed dentist responsible for procedures performed by the dental hygienists.

Empowering licensed dental hygienists to perform teeth cleanings, x-rays, intra-oral or extra-oral photographs for individuals who are not yet patients of record, have not yet been examined by a licensed dentist, or do not have a treatment plan helps to reduce barriers to care and opens the door for more new patients to receive care they may not otherwise receive.

Ultimately, if this becomes law, it will enable oral health professionals to perform at higher levels and creates a more efficient oral health delivery system. The ability of dental hygienists to refer individuals to a dentist for ongoing care ensures a dentist is involved in their care for early intervention and preventive care, sparing individuals

unnecessary pain and the need for costly emergency care. It also creates new opportunities to expand the use of teledentistry for those living in geographical areas with limited access to dentists or have been identified as vulnerable populations.

Thank you in advance for your support of HB 2372.

Sincerely,

Mark Yamakawa  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Dental Service



Hawaii Dental Association

**LATE**

To: The House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m., February 14, 2018  
Location: Capitol Conference Room 329  
Re: HB 2372, RELATING TO THE SUPERVISION OF LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENISTS IN A PUBLIC HEALTH SETTING.

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the committee! My name is Kim Nguyen and I serve as the executive director of the Hawaii Dental Association, a professional association comprised of approximately 950-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.

Our understanding of HB 2372 is that it restores needed flexibility in the public health setting. We support this measure.

**HB-2372**

Submitted on: 2/10/2018 7:06:54 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rosie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2372 as well as SB2799 relating to General Supervision in a Public Health Setting.

As a practicing dental hygienist and educator, general supervision will help with our State's deficiencies with the access to dental care especially for those with little to no dental insurance.

Mahalo

# Petition to Submit Testimony in Support of HB2372

<p>Petition summary and background:</p>	<p>As Registered Dental Hygienists in the state of Hawaii, we are in SUPPORT of HB2372. We are asking Legislature to amend the general supervision requirements by dentists for dental hygienists in <b>public health settings</b> to reflect the law prior to July 1, 2017. This will help to remove dental practice barriers that provide dental services in a public health setting and will allow dental hygienists to refer individuals to a dental home. Currently, the Hawaii Dental Practice Act only allows general supervision of a dental hygienist in a private and public health setting to see a patient of record, has an existing treatment plan and has been examined by a licensed dentist.</p>
<p>Action petitioned for:</p>	<p>We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to SUPPORT HB2372. These amendments will help to support and promote expanded access to dental services for the underserved and vulnerable population in a public health setting.</p>

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Diane Clements, RDH	<a href="mailto:clements002@hawaii.rr.com">clements002@hawaii.rr.com</a>		
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Sarah Kolar, RDH	<a href="mailto:skolar.rdh@gmail.com">skolar.rdh@gmail.com</a>		
Michelle Baniaga, RDH	<a href="mailto:michellehullrdh@hotmail.com">michellehullrdh@hotmail.com</a>		





Printed name	Email Address	Comment	Date

**HB-2372**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 8:07:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeny Bissell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2372**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 7:59:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diane Brucato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This testimony is in strong support of HB2372. This bill clarifies allowable duties safely executed by licensed dental hygienists in public health settings. This bill will do much to increase public access to safe preventive dental care by well educated, tested, and licensed dental hygienists. Thank you for your insight in creating this bill. Please support HB2372.

Respectfully,

Diane Brucato, RDH, EF, BS, FAADH

**HB-2372**

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 10:15:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica Prestler Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Registered Dental Hygienist licensed in Hawaii, I strive to use my profession to better my community. Public health settings are in need of hygienists who can act under general supervision to provide essential oral health services. This measure provides access to services and has my full support.



February 14, 2018

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **HB 2372 – Relating to the Supervision of Licensed Dental Hygienists in a Public Health Setting**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, February 14, 2018, 8:30 AM**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 2372, which would allow licensed dental hygienists to practice under the general or direct supervision of any licensed dentist providing dental services in a public health setting.**

Hawaii's children have the highest rate of tooth decay in the nation. This is particularly true for children in low-income households who reside in rural areas. These figures underscore the need to expand access to comprehensive dental care services, especially for underserved and vulnerable communities. This measure seeks to improve the dental health of our state's children by allowing dental hygienists to operate under the general supervision of a dentist in public health settings. This means that licensed dental hygienists will be able to perform necessary dental procedures such as teeth-cleanings, x-rays, and examinations in locations such as public schools and public housing. This allows for greater community outreach and breaks down some of the barriers that communities often face in obtaining dental health services. We believe this will expand access to dental services and provide immediate health benefits to our state's children.

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests your Committee to support this measure.**

*HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.*

**LATE**

**HB-2372**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 5:52:43 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sarah Bonham	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I would like to offer my support for HB 2372. I believe that teledentistry can allow dentists and dental hygienists to provide services to a larger number of people. Hawaii has been behind the national standards for dental health for some time. If dental hygienists can provide services in schools under tele-supervision, it is possible that many children can have improved dental health outcomes. Teledentistry also provides a cost effective and efficient way to ensure that quality dental services are provided within the community.

**HB-2372**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 6:22:08 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Boland	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Personal Testimony Presented before the  
House Committee on Health and Human Services

February 14, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

by

Mary G. Boland

**HB 2372 – RELATING TO THE SUPERVISION OF LICENSED DENTAL HYGIENISTS  
IN A PUBLIC HEALTH SETTING**

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mary Boland, and I serve as Dean of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene. I am pleased to provide personal testimony in support of HB 2372. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i.

This bill allows licensed dental hygienists to practice under the general or direct supervision of any licensed dentist providing dental services in a public health setting.

As a nurse, I recognize that increasing access to oral health services for underserved and Med-QUEST populations is a priority for action. The School is funded through 2022 to increase the dental health workforce serving children 0-5 years of age in underserved areas. Also, the School operates Hawai'i Keiki in partnership with the Department of Education where oral health is a significant concern. The ability of a dental hygienist to function under general supervision would increase community access to oral health services. The Hawai'i Keiki Program would be committed to work with public and private partners to begin delivering oral health assessment and services in school-based settings.

I thank the committee for hearing this bill and creating a definition for general supervision and public health settings.



**LATE**

**HB-2372**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 7:13:13 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: