

SB2926

Measure Title: RELATING TO DENTISTRY.

Report Title: Dental Assistants; Certification; Dental Assisting National Board

Description: Requires all dental assistants to obtain certification from the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc., as certified dental assistants no later than July 1, 2019, or no later than one hundred twenty days after the date of employment.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s): BAKER, K. RHOADS, S. Chang, Dela Cruz, Espero, Gabbard, Galuteria, Green, Ihara, Nishihara, Wakai

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

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

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Wednesday, February 7, 2018
10:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2926, RELATING TO DENTISTRY.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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 S.B. 2926. While the Board supports the concept of a tiered approach to dental assistants; the Board has concerns about this measure as written and is therefore testifying in opposition.

This measure requires all dental assistants to obtain certification from the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. ("DANB") as certified dental assistants no later than July 1, 2019, or no later than one hundred and twenty days after the date of employment.

S.B. 2926 does not recognize "grandfathering," and requiring all dental assistants employed in Hawaii prior to July 1, 2018, to obtain certification within one year is too short a period within which to comply. Presently, only one dental assisting program in Hawaii is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. This program is located at Kapiolani Community College ("KCC program") and trains and prepares dental assistants to take the DANB examination. The KCC program does not have the

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resources to enroll, train, and certify all currently employed dental assistants within the one-year period.

As such, the Board believes the language of this bill is too restrictive and does not offer enough options to become a dental assistant in Hawaii. This bill could severely impact the current workforce and safety of the public.

For these reasons, the Board opposes the bill in its current form.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2926.

SB-2926

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 4:18:43 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/7/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine Landsberg	Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Baker and Distinguished Members of the Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB) to provide information about DANB's certification programs that may be useful to the committee as it considers SB 2926. DANB is the national certification board for dental assistants and administers the Certified Dental Assistant™ (CDA®) certification program referenced in SB 2926.

The bill, as currently proposed, would require that dental assistants employed as of July 1, 2018 earn DANB's CDA certification within one year, or before July 1, 2019. Dental assistants who become employed after July 1, 2018 will have 120 days to earn DANB's CDA certification.

DANB is pleased to be able to provide the State of Hawai'i with a means to assess the competence of dental assistants working in Hawai'i. In recognizing DANB's CDA certification, Hawai'i will join 39 other states, along with the District of Columbia, the U.S. Air Force, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, in recognizing or requiring DANB exams for performance of dental assisting duties. DANB's CDA certification program is nationally accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies and internationally accredited to the ISO 17024 standard.

However, DANB is concerned that an unknown percentage of dental assistants currently working in Hawai'i may not be able to meet the eligibility requirements associated with DANB's CDA certification within the time allotted by SB 2926. Further, DANB is also concerned that those who become employed as dental assistants in the future will not be able to meet DANB's eligibility requirements before the 120-day deadline that would be established by SB 2926. I will provide more information about the reasons for these concerns below.

About DANB's Certified Dental Assistant™ (CDA®) Certification – Exams and Eligibility Pathways

DANB's CDA certification program consists of three examinations – Radiation Health and Safety (RHS®), Infection Control (ICE®) and General Chairside Assisting (GC). A candidate must take and pass all three of these exams within a five-year period to earn the CDA certification. These component exams may be taken together in one sitting or individually in separate exam administrations.

To take the GC component of the CDA exam (or to take the three components in one sitting), a candidate must meet the requirements of one of three eligibility pathways. For brevity's sake, I will discuss only the first two, because the third is used infrequently.

Pathway 1 requires that the candidate have graduated from a dental assisting education program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

Pathway 2 requires that the candidate be a high school graduate or equivalent and have completed 3,500 hours of work experience over a two- to four-year period. (Note: 3,500 hours is approximately equal to two years' full-time work experience.)

All pathways require candidates to hold a current CPR certificate accepted by DANB.

Implications of CDA Eligibility Pathways for Hawai'i Certification Candidates Under SB 2926

It is our understanding that there is one CODA-accredited dental assisting program in Hawai'i, and that the current capacity of this program is 12 students, which limits the number of candidates who will be able to meet the requirements of Pathway 1 to earn DANB's CDA certification.

Under the proposed terms of SB 2926, a Hawai'i dental assistant who is currently employed as of July 1, 2018 but who has not graduated from a CODA-accredited dental assisting program will, by necessity, be required to meet the eligibility requirements of Pathway 2. However, if the dental assistant does not already have a year or more of full-time work experience, it will not be possible for him or her to earn the remaining hours required and then apply for and take the CDA exam before the one-year deadline of July 1, 2019. Furthermore, it will not be possible for dental assistants who become employed after July 1, 2018, if they have not worked as dental assistants in the past and have not graduated from a CODA-accredited dental assisting program, to qualify for and earn DANB's CDA certification within 120 days. DANB is concerned that the deadlines currently proposed in SB 2926 will create a situation that will inhibit an unknown but potentially large number of prospective dental assistants from being able to qualify for work in Hawai'i.

In consideration of these factors, DANB hopes that the committee will defer its deliberations on SB 2926 until it can be amended, with input from DANB, to provide more realistic timeframes for compliance with the proposed requirement that all dental assistants in Hawai'i earn DANB's CDA certification. Alternatively, the committee may wish to consider whether another of DANB's certifications – the National Entry Level

Dental Assistant (NELDA®) certification – might provide a means for dental assistants who have not graduated from CODA-accredited dental assisting programs and who are not yet eligible for DANB's CDA certification to qualify to work as dental assistants in Hawai'i.

In brief, NELDA certification consists of three exams: the RHS and ICE exams that are part of the DANB CDA certification, along with DANB's Anatomy, Morphology and Physiology (AMP) exam. There are four eligibility pathways, the fourth of which requires candidates to have completed a minimum of 300 hours of work experience (but no more than 3,000 hours) and to hold a current DANB-accepted CPR certificate. Candidates who are eligible for DANB's CDA certification may not earn NELDA certification.

Because DANB's RHS and ICE exams have no eligibility requirements when taken as standalone exams, the committee may also wish to consider whether to use these two exams for initial qualification as a dental assistant, and to require the full CDA certification for dental assistants who are more seasoned and who may be performing more advanced duties.

If the committee wishes to amend SB 2926 to adjust the timeframes for earning CDA certification or to incorporate the NELDA certification as an alternative for those who are not yet eligible for CDA certification to qualify to work in Hawai'i or to require some other combination of DANB exams, DANB would very much like to work with you to provide information and input that will make it feasible to implement the desired certification requirements. Please contact me at klandsberg@danb.org or 312-280-3431 to discuss further.

I thank you very much for your time and attention to the concerns addressed in the foregoing testimony.

Sincerely,

Katherine Landsberg

Director, Government Relations

Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.



Testimony in Support of SB 2926, Relating to Dentistry

Ellie Kelley-Miyashiro, RDH, BS

Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association Regulations and Practice Chairperson
2017-2018

February 4, 2018

Dear Respected Members of the COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH:

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association (HDHA) strongly supports **SB 2926**. We applaud your leadership in initiating this important safety measure during the 2018 legislative session.

Currently, dental assistants in Hawai'i do not need any specific education or other qualifications and are not regulated by the State. In Hawai'i, Dental Assistants are identified in statute and administrative rule as unlicensed auxiliary personnel who perform supportive dental procedures under the direct supervision, direction, evaluation, and responsibility of a licensed dentist. Training for dental assistant duties is typically done on-the-job by the supervising dentist or another assistant, and varies from office to office and from dentist to dentist. This "on-the-job" method of training creates a standard of care with little, to no standardization.

It has been determined that several tasks routinely performed by dental assistants in Hawai'i can pose a reasonable risk of injury to patients. Tasks such as, proper infection control and sterilization, use of sharp instruments to remove excess cement or other materials within the mouth, or possible aspiration while taking intraoral impressions, all pose some risk to patients. Because of this risk, HDHA believes Dental Assistants should be uniformly trained and certified via the Dental Assisting National Board. This certification will then create a means the State can regulate and monitor this important profession.

HDHA thanks you for your time and consideration of **SB 2926**. As always, The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association would like to convey our core desire that dentists, hygienists and dental assistants continue to be integral members of the oral health team, and feel that the public is best served and protected when all members of the Oral Health workforce are properly trained, certified and regulated.

Thank you for your consideration.



Hawaii Dental Association

To: The Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health and Judiciary
Time/Date: 10:00 a.m. February 7, 2018
Location: Capitol Conference Room 229
Re: SB 2926, Relating to Dentistry

Aloha Chair Baker, Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Rhoads and members of the committees! My name is Dr. Robert Baysa and I serve as the president 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.

SB 2926 requires all dental assistants to obtain certification from the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc., as certified dental assistants no later than July 1, 2019, or no later than one hundred twenty days after the date of employment.

Hawaii Dental Association supported Act 84 (2017) which requested that the state auditor submit a report on the advisability of regulating dental assistants. That report recommends a tiered approach, which is reflected in HB 2207. Therefore, we respectfully oppose SB 2626 and request consideration of the alternate approach reflected in HB 2207. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Petition to Submit Testimony in Support of SB2926

<p>Petition summary and background:</p>	<p>As Registered Dental Hygienists in the state of Hawaii, we SUPPORT SB2926. In State Statute, Dental Assistants have clearly delineated allowable/prohibited duties, but no regulation or licensing of Dental Assistants is required in the state of Hawaii. The majority of Dental Assistants in Hawaii are trained on the job by other Dental Assistants or their supervising Dentist. For the public's safety, we feel requiring Dental Assistants to obtain certification from the Dental Assisting National Board would be a wise decision. Several duties routinely performed by Dental Assistants in Hawaii can pose a reasonable risk of injury to patients. Because of this risk, we believe Dental Assistants should be uniformly trained and certified via the Dental Assisting National Board. After certification, the State can then properly regulate licenses.</p>
<p>Action petitioned for:</p>	<p>We, the undersigned are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to SUPPORT SB2926.</p>

Printed name	Email Address	Comment	Date
Shirley Chun, RDH	scpinsky@gmail.com		
Jamie Tengan, RDH	jamzan10@gmail.com		
Faye Fox, RDH	fnf1464@gmail.com		
Darlee Motosue, RDH	dkmotosue@yahoo.com		
Audra Dennis, RDH	oceanbreeze@gci.net		
Gaea Tunnissen, RDH	gaea.tunnissen@gmail.com		
Arimxay Varel, RDH	aavarel19@gmail.com		
Ariel Ita, RDH	ariel1214@yahoo.com		
Jennifer Shiroma, RDH	jshiroma@hawaiiifamilydental.com		
Christine Schroeder, RDH	dnqtrdh808@gmail.com		
Cynthia Taylor, RDH	cynktaylor@gmail.com		
Chelsea Acob, RDH	cjba@hawaii.edu		
Lorie Calma, RDH	l0121376@aol.com		
Linda Kang, RDH	lindakan@hawaii.edu		
Andrea Hetherington, RDH	ajh.rdh13@gmail.com		
Susan Eladnani, RDH	susaneladnani@gmail.com		

Printed name	Email Address	Comment	Date
Iris Woolsey, RDH	igttwink@hawaii.rr.com		
Crystal Egusa, RDH	cegusa@gmail.com		
Samantha Fisher, RDH	samfisher@yahoo.com		
Kim Schneider, RDH	kschneider@hawaii.rr.com		
Marilyn Nonaka, RDH	texaninhawaii@gmail.com		
Stacy Matsuyama, RDH	smsekioka@gmail.com		
Tabitha Kukahiko, RDH	tabitha4avon@yahoo.com		
Marie Duke, RDH	maduke92254@gmail.com		
Rayann Bautista Echavez, RDH	ryanrdh@gmail.com		
Anna Akaka, RDH	annaakaka@gmail.com		
Kyoko Tomita, RDH	kyotokomrdh@gmail.com		
Candace Kawakami, RDH	denniskawakami@hawaii.rr.com		
Tori Clegg, RDH	tlegg09@gmail.com		
Melorie Yuen, RDH	melorieyuen@gmail.com		
Michelle Estakaya, RDH	estamichelle@gmail.com		
Donna Christman, RDH	dchristman76@gmail.com		
Tracy Furukawa, RDH	alanandrtracy@hawaiiantel.net		
Caroline Kanno, RDH	smile@hawaiidentaltemp.com		
Chanda Park, RDH	chandapark@gmail.com		
Maile Mokulehua, RDH	41dash@gmail.com		
Jan Migita, RDH	migitajans@gmail.com		
Steffany Giammalvo, RDH	steffgiammanlvo@gmail.com		
Mavis Gushiken, RDH	mavisg808@hawaii.rr.com		
Shori Patten, RDH	shori21@aol.com		
Jackie Sawai, RDH	jackiesawai@gmail.com		
Valerie Zukeran, RDH	theheartofbusiness@gmail.com		
Stacie Okihara, RDH	skye_lar@hotmail.com		
Jaimie Yuen, RDH	jyuen001@hawaii.rr.com		
Sandy Bangert, RDH	skirkoski@icloud.com		
Natasha Fong, RDH	fongn@hawaii.edu		
Jessica Chang, RDH	jprestler@gmail.com		
Kimi Yagi, RDH	kannyagi@gmail.com		

Printed name	Email Address	Comment	Date
Jessica Busby, RDH	jessica_mowder@hotmail.com		
Samantha Boroff, RDH	boroff.212@osu.edu		
Alaina Pacheco, RDH	amprdh555@gmail.com		
Emeraude Thai, RDH	amythai@msn.com		
Audra Nakamatsu, RDH	anakamatsu@hotmail.com		
Nahoku Keala, RDH	nahokukeala@gmail.com		
Beverly Duyan, RDH	bslduyan@gmail.com		
Carly Takara, RDH	cftakara@gmail.com		
Gayle Chang, RDH	gchang50@gmail.com		
Nicole Pikini, RDH	nicole.pikini64@gmail.com		
Mikiel Lina Agoy, RDH	m.linardh@gmail.com		
Allie Jefferies, RDH	alliejefferiesrdh@gmail.com		
Carolyn Nacapuy, RDH	battulayan@yahoo.com		
Elsie Santos, RDH	nontoxic808@gmail.com		
Janice Blaser, RDH	alohajuice@hotmail.com		
Jennifer Fajardo, RDH	healthysmile@yahoo.com		
Erica Tabalba, RDH	etabalba@gmail.com		
Nicole Florendo-Serai, RDH	localgirl521@yahoo.com		
Gail Pang, RDH	batsnookums@yahoo.com		
Deb Mapel, RDH	dmapel@hawaii.edu		
Karen Nagamine, RDH	cn1cn2605@yahoo.com		
Amy Tsubota-Cruz, RDH	aimsstsu@gmail.com		
Shirley Li, RDH	sara_li88@ymail.com		
Brenda Yospe, RDH	byospe@hotmail.com		
Megumi Kodama, RDH	megu2_4@hotmail.com		
Yvette Like, RDH	kaiulani67@yahoo.com		
Mie Choe, RDH	mrainbow0220@gmail.com		
Diane Clements, RDH	clements002@hawaii.rr.com		
Theresa Brown, RDH	terri4brown@aol.com		
Sarah Kolar, RDH	skolar.rdh@gmail.com		
Michelle Baniaga, RDH	michellehullrdh@hotmail.com		
Jessica Lozano, RDH	jes_lozano@yahoo.com		

Printed name	Email Address	Comment	Date

SB-2926

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 5:19:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/7/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Brucato		Support	No

Comments:

This testimony is in support of SB2926. After reading the Sunrise review regarding regulation of dental assistants in Hawaii, this bill would ensure the safety of the public while providing greater opportunity for dental assistants in Hawaii.

In a letter from the American Dental Assisting Association (AADA) referenced in the 1/2/2001 Minutes of the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners, the AADA wrote:

"With increased technology and minimally trained and knowledgeable assistants, the ADAA is requesting the Board to mandate certification, education, and credentialing of all dental assistants." (HBDE Minutes 1/2/2001)

Our Legislative leaders are commended for moving the profession forward in this manner to provide a higher standard of care and ensure public safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Diane M. Brucato, RDH, EF, BS, FAADH

SB-2926

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:34:35 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/7/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Prestler Chang		Support	No

Comments:

As a Registered Dental Hygienist, I support this measure to ensure proper training and safe practices in Hawaii's dental environments.