

**Testimony of the Board of Dentistry**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Wednesday, March 4, 2020  
9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 514, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF DENTISTRY,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JOSEPH CHU,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2023**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sandra Matsushima, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Dentistry (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Dr. Joseph Chu's appointment to the Board as a dentist member from Kauai.

Dr. Chu has been licensed as a dentist in Hawaii since April 23, 2009, and his license is current, active, and in good standing. He has served on the Board on an interim basis since October 2019 and has attended all board meetings since his appointment.

Dr. Chu contributes greatly to board meeting discussions by preparing ahead of time for the matters on the agenda and by actively participating in discussions during those meetings. Additionally, by sharing insights he has gained over his many years of experience as a licensed dentist in active practice, Dr. Chu has made significant contributions to the Board's deliberations on various issues.

The Board believes that Dr. Chu's continued interest in serving on the Board, active participation in board meetings, and experience in the profession will greatly enhance the Board's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**GM-514**

Submitted on: 3/1/2020 7:05:28 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Dr. Joseph Chu for confirmation to the Board of Dentistry.

I have practiced dentistry in Hawaii since 1980, with a four year break 1985-1989 for residency training and Army service on the mainland. I have practiced at my current location in Lihue since 1991.

After completing his endodontic residency, Dr. Chu was associated with a group practice in Honolulu. He expressed an interest in opening an office on Kauai so I offered to let him practice out of my office until he was up to full speed. We shared my office space for the next 5 years before he eventually went out and opened an office of his own in Lihue.

Although we did not work shoulder-to-shoulder, (since I am an orthodontist and he is and endodontist), we did share staff and we crossed paths frequently. I used the office 3 1/2 days a week and he used it for 2 1/2 days a week.

During this 5 year interaction I can attest that Dr. Chu maintained the highest standards of ethics and patient care. All of the general dentists on Kauai are indeed grateful that he chose to relocate to our island. He has been a very valuable asset to the dental community and to the greater community at large. He is a dedicated member of the profession and will serve the people of the state of Hawaii well as member of the State Board of Dentistry. He is appreciated by his patients and his staff alike. He looks out for people. We would all be well served by his appoint to the board.

Michael R. Bailey, DMD

Lihue, HI



Aloha Senator Rosalyn Baker,

I am writing to you on behalf of my colleague, Dr. Joseph Chu, in full support of his nomination in becoming a member of the State of Hawaii Board of Dentistry. I have known Dr. Chu professionally for over 10 years. He is an Endodontist and I am a General Dentist on Kauai. He exemplifies excellence, empathy, selflessness, and professionalism towards his patients as well as the overall Kauai community.

As a specialist, Dr. Chu has provided unparalleled quality of care for the patients in my practice, and is extremely open to communication and feedback. At the same time, he has volunteered to serve as the Kauai County President in years past. He also regularly gives back to the community through free care days at his office (for those who can't afford root canal services), amongst other things.

I fully trust his knowledge and service towards our patients and our profession. He would be a tremendous asset on the Board to serve the people of Hawaii, and therefore, I highly recommend Dr. Joseph Chu to the State of Hawaii Board of Dentistry.

Sincerely  
Alan J. Ing, DDS

I am extremely honored to write this letter of recommendation for Dr. Joe Chu as he seeks a seat on the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners.

I am the Associate Director in charge of a one year residency in General Dentistry , sponsored by NYU Langone Medical Center. We recruit 10-13 dental students out of dental schools and assign them to community centers statewide. They augment staff dentists at these health centers by treating underprivileged children and adults. Dr. Chu was a member of my third class from 2004-2005. After the residency, and due to his very high academic credentials, Dr. Chu pursued a career in endodontics at the Lutheran Medical Center, a level 1 training hospital in Brooklyn. Originally from Long Island, he returned to Hawaii and started his practice on Kauai. Prior to his relocation, he gave back to his residency and community ten fold by volunteering at KKV in teaching and mentoring future residents interested in endodontics. Throughout all the years that I have known Dr. Chu, he is intensely loyal, possesses an unbelievable work ethic, but above all a wonderful and fair minded person.

I can assure you without any hesitation Dr. Chu will be a huge asset to the Board of Dentistry.

Sincerely,

Samuel Ishimura, DDS, FACP

Associate Director of Education

AEGD Residency Program, Hawaii Region

NYU Langone Medical Center

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