



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 679, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF DENTISTRY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WALLACE FOOK CHONG III,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2024**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the confirmation of Dr. Wallace Fook Chong III's appointment to the Board of Dentistry (Board) as a licensee member.

Dr. Chong has nearly 20 years of experience as a dentist since opening his own practice in 2001. He was born and raised in Hilo and returned home to practice after completing undergraduate and Doctor of Dental Surgery programs at Indiana University. Dr. Chong continues to learn and incorporate the latest dental procedures through membership in a SPEAR Study Club.

Dr. Chong is also a former president and secretary for the Hawaii County Dental Society and former member of the Rotary Club of South Hilo. He understands the commitment necessary to prepare for and attend the Board's meetings on Oahu.

The Department believes that Dr. Chong's professional experience and connection to the Big Island will offer a meaningful perspective to the Board. In addition, his desire to serve on the Board and commitment to actively participate in board meetings will greatly enhance the Board's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaii Dental Association

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., May 13, 2020
Location: Capitol Conference Room 229
Re: **GM 679, Nomination of Wallace Fook Chong III, to the Board of Dentistry**

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Hawaii Dental Association (HDA), we are writing in support of Dr. Wallace Chong's appointment to the Board of Dentistry. He is a third generation dentist from Hilo and will well represent the people, not only from the island of Hawaii, but those from across the state. He has served as an active member of the American Dental Association and the Hawaii Dental Association for 19 years.

We commend the legislature for reviewing the credentials and commitment of members of the community who are willing to serve in important leadership roles on boards and commissions. We believe that Dr. Chong's service will benefit the people of the state of Hawaii.

HDA is a statewide professional membership organization representing dentists practicing in Hawaii and licensed by the State of Hawaii Board of Dentistry. 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.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of GM 679.

Dan Leroy De Mattos, Jr.
8 Pakalana Place, Hilo, HI 96720 808-969-6001 mr. demattos@gmail.com

March 3, 2020

Dear Office of the Governor:

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Wallace Fook Chong III as a nominee to the State of Hawai'i Board of Dentistry.

I have known Wallace since we were in the sixth grade at Waiākea Intermediate School. Professionally, Wallace has been the dentist of my daughters for about 15 years. In the years that I have known Wallace, both personally and professionally, I have found him to be dedicated, honest, and committed.

Wallace graduated from Waiākea High School in Hilo, Hawai'i in May 1993. He moved to Bloomington, Indiana to attend Indiana University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Like many of our friends, Wallace is rooted in Hawai'i and moved back to live, work, and raise a family when he graduated from the Indiana University School of Dentistry.

As a small business owner, Wallace runs his dentistry practice, with all that entails, while also performing all of the dental work for his many clients. Having learned from his father, he manages all aspects of his office. Even with this busy schedule, he still makes time for leisure activities, such as traveling and playing basketball. Most importantly, he makes sure to spend quality time with his wife and young daughter. Wallace is also active in our community. He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Hilo. He has also volunteered to coach both youth baseball and youth basketball. I am sure that Wallace will also be able to balance his time at home, at work, and as a board member.

For these reasons, I believe that Wallace would make an excellent member of the State of Hawai'i Board of Dentistry.

Sincerely,

Dan Leroy De Mattos, Jr.

March 5, 2020

To Whom It May Concern

From: Dr Milton M Fujiuchi, DDS

Re: Dr Wallace Chong, III

I am writing to recommend Dr Wallace Chong, III to represent Hawaii County on the State Board of Dental Examiners.

Dr Chong has been an active member of the Hawaii County Dental Society for all 19 years that he has been in practice affording him the opportunity to keep his pulse on the dental industry in Hawaii County. He also served as the Society's president.

Dr Chong has served as a grader for the regional dental board examination for the last eight years. This examination is administered in multiple locations (Hawaii and across the US Mainland) providing him broad exposure and interaction with other dental professionals that will be an asset to him as a Dental Examiner.

Dr Chong's interest and dedication to the dental industry was inspired by his father, Dr Wallace Chong, II, who was also a member of the State Board of Dental Examiners and served as a long-term grader for the regional dental exam. This inspiration, along with his dedication to the dental profession, is one of the main reasons he is seeking a position on the board of dental examiners.

I strongly support his candidacy and appreciate your utmost consideration in selecting him to represent Hawaii County.

**WALLACE F. CHONG, D.D.S., INC.
74 PONAHAHAWAI STREET
HILO, HI 96720-3026
(808) 935-5651**

Office of Senator Rosalyn Baker
415 South Beretania St., 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 586-6070

May 10, 2020

To: Senator Baker and Committee Members:

I am applying for consideration to be a member for the Board of Dentistry. Here are the responses to the questions sent through the email request for review.

1. Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

I would like to continue to give back to the community and protect the public and be more involved in the licensure of dentists and hygienists here in Hawaii.

2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

My perception of the roles and responsibilities includes attending and being prepared for meetings and make decisions that would be in the best interest to protect the oral health, safety and welfare of the public.

3. In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

I feel that I can help protect the consumer by continuing to ensure that licensees meet the requirements for safe practice and help make decisions to any issues that arise that may affect public safety.

4. Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

I have worked as a dentist for 19 years and as a consultant CDCA examiner for 8 years. These experiences have exposed me to dental concerns of the public and dentistry.

5. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope to give a dental perspective to what is being addressed by the Board of Dentistry.

6. Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

- Good listener – Enables me to be able to hear both sides of an issue.
- Caring – Looking out for the best interest of the public with a focus on keeping the public safe.
- Dedicated – I want to be able to ensure that the public can trust dentists and that they are able to get the best quality of care.

7. Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

My father previously served on the Board of Dentistry and listened to some of his experiences. Also being a CDCA consultant examiner has allowed me to see the licensure process that exists to protect the public.

8. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any conflicts of interest. If a conflict arises, I would disclose this conflict and recuse myself from voting.

With Respect,

Wallace F. Chong, III, D.D.S.