

GM729
Katherine Fukushima
Board of Dentistry

1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Dentistry?

I am interested in learning how the Board of Dentistry operates. I want to learn the process involved in the decision making. I would also like to serve to protect the public's best interest in dental related matters.

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

I think that the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Dentistry is to make decisions that are in the best interest of the public.

(3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board of Dentistry 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've been a practicing Registered Dental Hygienist since 1992. I have experience in both private practice and Naval Health Clinic Hawaii - Makalapa Dental clinic. I served on the Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association as a BOT in the mid 90's- early 2000's. I also served an examiner when the State of Hawaii conducted the Dental Hygiene board examinations. I have years of experience in different areas of dentistry that can help in the decision making process to protect the welfare of the people of Hawaii.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

Experience.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board of Dentistry.

Honest, dedicated, and caring. I always look out for the best interest of the patients I treat and as a board member, my decisions will be in the best interest of the public's well-being.

(6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board of Dentistry member.

I've been in the dental hygiene profession since 1992, and my experiences with HDHA and the State of HI Dental Hygiene board exams.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board of Dentistry? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

No, I don't foresee any conflict of interest. If a conflict of interest should arise, I would chose to abstain.

Sincerely,

Katherine H. Fukushima, RDH, BS



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

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

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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 and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 9, 2021
9:20 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 729, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF DENTISTRY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KATHERINE FUKUSHIMA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2025**

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 appointment of Ms. Katherine Fukushima to the Board of Dentistry (Board) as a licensee member.

Ms. Fukushima has been licensed as a registered dental hygienist (RDH) in Hawaii since August 25, 1992, and her license is current, valid, and in good standing. She has been employed in dentistry since 1989 and is currently working as an RDH at Kahala Smiles Professionals LLC. Previously, Ms. Fukushima was an office manager for a health insurance broker, and an RDH at Naval Health Clinic Hawaii for many years.

Testimony of DCCA

G.M. 729

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Ms. Fukushima served as a liaison for the Dental Hygiene Student externship program for the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Department of Dental Hygiene, and she also has extensive experience supervising and mentoring dental hygiene students.

Ms. Fukushima's professional experience will offer a meaningful perspective to the Board. In addition, her commitment to actively participate in board meetings will greatly enhance the Board's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: [baker4 -](#)
To: [CPN Committee](#)
Subject: FW: SUPORTIVE TESTIMONY FOR KATHY FUKUSHIMA, RDH
Date: Monday, April 5, 2021 9:26:58 AM

From: Sherman, Dr. Robert <rsherman@hawaiidentalsservice.com>
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 12:49 PM
To: baker4 - Alisha <baker4@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: SUPORTIVE TESTIMONY FOR KATHY FUKUSHIMA, RDH

Senator Baker,

I am sending you this message with my highest personal recommendation and support of Ms. Kathy Fukushima, RDH for a seat on the State of Hawaii Board of Dentistry. I hired Ms. Fukushima many years ago when I was the Director of Dental Services for the Navy at Pearl Harbor. She is a highly skilled dental professional who remains current on all of the technological advances in dentistry and is extremely cognizant of the relevant dental issues facing Hawaii. She was always courteous and professional to her patients and fellow co-workers on the dental team and contributed significantly to the outstanding and unmatched dental health achievements at Pearl Harbor. She works extremely well with others and always looks to make things better. As a past member of the Hawaii Board of Dentistry (you interviewed me back in 2009), I am quite confident that she will a valuable member and contribute immensely to the Board and the State of Hawaii.

I can be reached at rsherman1955@gmail.com or at 808-381-3704 if you have any questions or concerns.

Much aloha,

RGS

Robert G. Sherman, DMD

Diplomate, ABOM

Certified Dental Consultant

Dental Director, Hawaii Dental Service

808-529-9213

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I have worked with Kathy at Makalapa Dental Clinic for the Navy. Kathy is a punctual, hard working, friendly and team worker in our clinic.

She has helped me in the clinic because I was a computer illiterate. She patiently spent hours and days to show me how to use the computer. Some of the other girls had problems and Ksthy also helped them.

When the University sent Dental Hygienist Students to our clinic Kathy helped to train and coordinate these students in our clinic.

Kathy would be a great asset for any office to have her in their office. She is an honest, dependable person which are valued in any office.

Sincerely,

DarleeRuth K. Motosue

Dkmotosue@yahoo.com

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S21 Ultra 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 586-6070

April 6, 2021

Dear Senator Baker,

I am writing to recommend Kathy Fukushima, RDH as an appointee to the Board of Dentistry. Having served myself on the board for two terms, I am aware of the responsibility, dedication, and devotion of time and energy needed to be a successful board member. Kathy knows this and has proven to be a hard-working and principled person who can be counted on to show fairness. As a person, she is one of the most trustworthy and dependable people I know. Kathy has practiced dental hygiene in Hawaii for 29 years. She has served on the Hawaii Dental Hygiene Association board of trustees and as Vice President twice. She was a dental hygiene examiner for five years when the dental hygiene board exam was administered by the state. She cares deeply about the profession and serving the public. I have no reservations in endorsing Kathy Fukushima for the Board of Dentistry.

Respectfully,
Candace M. Wada, D.D.S.

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