

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2757

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 03 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2280
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, to which was referred S.B. No. 2280, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DENTAL ASSISTANTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to allow dental assistants to perform limited duties under the general supervision of a dentist in public health settings.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health; Board of Dentistry; Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition; Hui No Ke Ola Pono, Inc.; AlohaCare; Hawaii Dental Association; Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that incidences of tooth decay and poor oral hygiene in children across the State is alarmingly high. Untreated cavities can lead to significant pain and increase the risk of more serious infections in the mouth and body.

Your Committee further finds that the State lacks adequate and accessible dental public health infrastructure, especially on the neighbor islands. While existing law permits dental assistants to practice under the general supervision of a dentist in public health settings, dental assistants are prohibited from providing auxiliary support except under direct supervision.



Your Committee additionally finds that permitting dental assistants to provide limited, but essential, auxiliary support under general supervision while in public health settings would contribute to the development and sustainable implementation of community-based dental disease prevention programs. It would also expand providers' ability to offer adequate and accessible oral health services to rural communities and the State's most vulnerable residents, such as expanding the provision of teledentistry services.

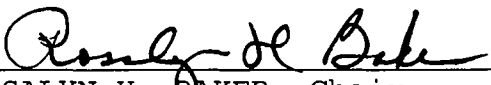
Accordingly, your Committee finds that this measure will promote equitable access to critically needed dental services in communities across the State by expanding the permissible duties of dental assistants.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of January 1, 2023; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2280, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2280, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection,




ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
CPN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2280, SD1	HTH, CPN	02-22-2022		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	X			
CHANG, Stanley (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	X			
RIVIERE, Gil	X			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	7	0	0	0
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes