

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 162 S.D. 2
RELATING TO DENTISTRY LICENSES**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: 3/17/2023

Room Number: CR 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports this measure which allows dental and
3 dental hygiene college graduates recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on
4 Dental Accreditation (ADA CODA) to apply for temporary and/or community service licenses. This
5 allows community service license holders to be employed or participate in post-doctorate dental
6 residency programs at community-based dental organizations such as the Department of Health,
7 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), and the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems. It also
8 supports allowing a “community health center” to employ dentists/dental hygienists that have a
9 community service license. This bill helps address the workforce shortage of public oral health
10 providers that serve the most underserved and vulnerable populations, including Medicaid recipients.

11 Currently, the ADA CODA only “recognizes” the Commission on Dental Accreditation of
12 Canada (CDAC) accredited dental educational programs. Through a formal reciprocal agreement
13 between the ADA CODA and the CDAC, the Commissions agree that the educational programs
14 accredited by the other agency are equivalent to their own and no further education is required for
15 eligibility for licensure.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

17 **Offered Amendments:** N/A

Testimony of the Board of Dentistry

**Before the
House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Friday, March 17, 2023
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 162, S.D. 2, RELATING TO DENTISTRY LICENSES**

Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheena Choy, and I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Dentistry (Board). The Board appreciates the intent and offers comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) allow the Board to issue without examination, a community service license to practice dental hygiene in the employment of a community health center and allows eligible candidates to submit as documentation and credentials, diplomas and certificates of graduation from a dental hygiene college or dental college that has a reciprocal agreement with the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), recognized and approved by the Board; (2) allow an applicant for a license as a dentist to submit a certificate or other evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has passed the Integrated National Board Dental Examination; (3) allow the Board to issue without examination, a community service license to practice dentistry in the employment of a community health center and allow eligible candidates to submit as documentation and credentials, diplomas and certificates of graduation from a dental hygiene college or dental college that has a reciprocal agreement with the CODA, recognized and approved by the Board, and certificates or other evidence satisfactory to the Board of having passed the Integrated National Board Dental Examination; and (4) allow the Board to issue without examination, a temporary license to practice dentistry exclusively under the auspices of a dental residency program, to graduates from a dental college that has a reciprocal agreement with the CODA, recognized and approved by the Board.

The Board supports: (1) the addition of the term “community health center” to authorized entities that may employ dentists and/or dental hygienists with a community service license; and (2) updating the reference to the dental exam to include the

Testimony of the Board of Dentistry

S.B. 162, S.D. 2

Page 2 of 2

“Integrated National Board Dental Examination”, which has replaced the National Board Dental Examination Part I and Part II.

However, while the language of this bill is limited to applicants for the community service license or temporary license, several Board members expressed their concern that this limited acceptance for a dental hygiene college or dental college that has a reciprocal agreement with the CODA will set a precedent that may eventually be applied to dentists and dental hygienists applying for a permanent license.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Friday, March 17, 2023, 9:00 AM, Conference Room 329

RE: **SB162 SD2 Relating to Dentistry Licenses**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB162 SD2**. This measure will revise the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act to allow community health centers to recruit eligible candidates for temporary and community service licenses, to allow graduates of American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) recognized institutions eligibility for temporary and community service licenses, and to include the Integrated National Dental Board Examination as an acceptable examination requirement.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately half of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care.

Our firm belief in ensuring access to quality, whole-person care is the reason we advocated so strongly year after year for the reinstatement of adult dental benefits in the Medicaid program. And we are so grateful to the 2022 Hawai'i State Legislature for reinstating dental care coverage (\$25.9M) for Medicaid members. Now we turn our focus to implementing this benefit. SB162 SD2 will help to expand the dental workforce statewide to serve the 250,000+ Medicaid adult recipients now seeking dental care.

According to the Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition, of which we are a member:

- Only 240 private Hawai'i dentists accept adults with Medicaid health insurance.
- Our State's 14 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) cared for approximately 40,000 dental patients in 2021. FQHCs have long patient wait lists due to limited facility and staffing capacity.

SB162 SD2 will increase the number of dental providers and strengthen our public dental sector on which many residents—especially those who live in rural and neighbor islands communities—while maintaining quality of care.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of SB162 SD2**.

1357 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1250, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Call: 973-0712 • Toll-free: 1-877-973-0712 • Fax: 808-973-0726 • www.AlohaCare.org



Hawaii Dental Association

To: House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Time/Date: 9 a.m., March 17, 2023
Location: State Capitol via Video Conference
Re: SB 162, SD2, Relating to Dentistry Licenses

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Dental Association (HDA) provides comments on SB 162, SD2, Relating to Dentistry Licenses. This bill amends the qualifications for dentist community service licenses and dentists' temporary licenses, and for dental hygienist community service licenses by requiring the acceptance of candidates who are graduates of a dental college or dental hygiene college with reciprocal agreements with the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). We support the inclusion of dentists from schools with CODA reciprocal agreements for purposes of determining the qualifications of community service licenses.

HDA is committed to ensuring patient safety and promoting oral health for our community. Please note that national surveys indicate that Hawaii is among the top five states of dentists per capita.

Oral health is essential for overall health and wellness. One cannot be healthy without a healthy mouth. It can show signs of nutritional deficiencies or general infection. Systemic diseases, those that affect the entire body, may first become apparent because of mouth lesions or other oral problems. This bill seeks to increase access to sufficient dental care, especially those in native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. The high rate of tooth decay among Hawaii's children, which can lead to pain that interferes with daily activities, is of the highest degree of importance to the Hawaii Dental Association and its members. Untreated cavities also increase the risk of more serious infection in the mouth and body. We welcome an opportunity to engage in dialog on this measure and to serve as a resource to policy makers on oral health.

HDA is a statewide membership organization representing dentists practicing in Hawaii and licensed by the State of Hawaii's Board of Dentistry. HDA members are committed to protecting the oral health and well-being of the people of Hawaii, from keiki to kupuna and everyone in between.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 162.



HAWAI'I ORAL HEALTH COALITION

Date: March 15, 2023

To: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness

Re: Support for SB162 SD2, Relating to Dentistry Licenses

Hrg: March 17, 2023, at 9:00 am - Conference Room 329 & via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition, a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute, is in **strong support of SB162 SD2**, which revises the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act to allow community health centers to recruit eligible candidates for temporary and community service licenses, allow graduates of ADA-Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) recognized institutions eligibility for temporary and community service licenses and includes the Integrated National Dental Board Examination as an acceptable examination requirement.

The mission of the Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition (HOHC) is to improve the overall health and well-being of all Hawai'i residents by increasing access to and equity in oral health care through collaborative partnerships, advocacy, and education. HOHC is a community-driven organization comprised of members representing organizations and individuals from diverse sectors across Hawai'i. The HOHC operates under the auspice of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute.

Oral health is essential to the overall physical, psychological, social, and economic well-being of Hawai'i's residents. Yet, our residents suffer from poor oral health:

- Hawai'i has among the highest prevalence of dental decay in children and adults compared to other states.
- Low-income families, intellectually and developmentally disabled residents, kūpuna, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations, and neighbor island residents are disproportionately impacted by poor oral health.
- Our state's 14 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) cared for approximately 40,000 dental patients in 2021.¹ FQHCs have long wait lists due to the limited facility and staffing capacity.
- Only 240 FQHC and general practice dentists are active in Medicaid in Hawai'i. However, it is unclear how many currently accept new patients.
- Lack of an in-state dental school, geographic isolation, lack of community water fluoridation, and societal inequities are significant contributors to our poor oral health status.

SB162 SD2 will help to increase the number of dentists available to Medicaid patients. This measure will help adult Medicaid beneficiaries to gain access to the Medicaid adult dental benefits that the legislature generously approved in 2022.

The Hawai'i Dental Practice Act requires that eligible candidates for temporary and community service licensure must have graduated from an ADA – Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited institution. However, it does not reflect the reciprocal agreement between CODA and the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC). The reciprocal agreement recognizes that the “educational programs accredited by the other agency are equivalent to their own and no further education is required for eligibility for licensure.”ⁱⁱ

SB162 SD2, as proposed, applies exclusively to community service, hygiene, and temporary dental licenses. The community service and temporary licenses for post-doctoral dental residency programs continue to require clinical oversight of these licenses by the employing entity or residency program. Only authorized entities that are community-based or focused may hire individuals with a community service license.

Illinois, Indiana, Florida, Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Wyoming are states that currently accept qualified Canadian candidates to meet the high demand for community service providers.

This bill will help increase access to care while maintaining the quality of care our residents deserve by strengthening our public dental sector, which many residents, especially those living in rural and neighbor island communities, rely on.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to pass SB162 SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,



Patrick Donnelly
Statewide Oral Health Coalition Manager
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

ⁱ <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/data-reporting/program-data?grantNum=H80CS06640>

ⁱⁱ Commission on Dental Accreditation, Evaluation & Operational Policies & Procedures. August 2022.



Testimony in Support of SB162 SD2, Relating to Dentistry Licenses

House Committee on Health and Homelessness
March 17, 2023
9 AM
Conference Room 329

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members:

Improving access to oral health care is a top concern for Hawaii Dental Service (HDS). As the state's leading dental benefits provider, HDS is responsible for serving more than a million residents in Hawaii, Guam and Saipan, including Medicaid adult and children beneficiaries. HDS strongly supports SB162 SD2 because it provides health equity solutions by improving access to oral health care for underserved communities, especially those on our neighbor islands.

Updating the Hawaii Dental Practice Act (HRS §448-12) offers multiple benefits to address oral health care access challenges:

- 1) It will enable community health centers with post-doctoral residency programs to attract dental school graduates with a heart for community service by granting them temporary or community service licenses to support the community health centers.
- 2) Quality assurance is critical. The stipulation that these dentists be graduates of institutions recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) or those who meet the requirements of the Integrated National Dental Board Examination will provide peace of mind for the community.
- 3) Dental hygiene college graduates from institutions recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation would also be eligible to apply for a community service license, further expanding access to oral health care.

The amendments do not require a funding allocation. In fact, access to dental care for Hawaii's most vulnerable could result in earlier interventions, which in return can reduce oral health costs in the long run.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 162 SD2 and for helping to address health disparities in our state.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Paloma".

Dr. Diane Paloma
President & CEO

SB-162-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 4:40:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joseph Kohn MD | We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Support SB162 SD2 re: dental licensing, the more people we get in healthcare, the fewer can go in to the MIC. I might add that oversight is generally indicated by experienced professionals. People before Profit

www.WeAreOne.cc



Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Representative Belatti, Chair
Representative Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Re: SB162 SD2, relating to dentistry licenses
9:00 a.m., Mar. 17, 2023

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and committee members:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 162 SD2, relating to dentistry licenses.

Oral health is critical to a person's overall health and well-being. But oral health takes access, and currently, there is a severe shortage of public oral health professionals, which includes dentists and dental hygienists. This means that at a time when more individuals have the coverage to access dental benefits, **we do not have enough professionals to serve them.**

This bill makes important revisions to the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act that will allow community health centers to recruit eligible candidates for temporary and community service licenses, allow graduates of ADA-Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-recognized institutions eligibility for temporary and community service licenses, and include the Integrated National Dental Board Examination as an acceptable examination requirement.

SB162 can increase the supply of public oral health professionals at an important time: the reinstatement of dental benefits for adults insured through Medicaid. This is a **no-cost** solution that can make an impact quickly.

We urge you to support SB162 SD2.

Mahalo,

Ke'ōpū Reelitz
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

SB-162-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 8:01:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lauren N. Bundschuh DDS | Ho'ola Lahui Hawaii | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To: House Committee on Health and Homelessness

To: House Committee on Health and Homelessness

Hearing Date/Time: March 17, 2023 at 9:00a; Conference Room 329 & Videoconference; State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street.

Re: Support for SB162, Relating to Dentistry Licenses

Aloha Representative Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Representative Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the committee on Health and Homelessness,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB162 which revises the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act to allow community health centers to recruit eligible candidates for temporary community Service licenses, allow graduates of ADA-Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) recognized institutions eligibility for temporary and community service licenses, and includes the Integrated National Dental Board Examination as an acceptable examination requirement.

Increasing the number of eligible candidates for community service and temporary licensure is important because more dental needs will be met. Bottom line. I feel we have a critical shortage of Dentists serving in the Public Health arena and a shortage of privately owned Dental practices participating in Medicaid. This directly affects our most vulnerable and underserved population in our rural communities. This bill with it's proposed amendments will support the overwhelming need for Providers that serve vulnerable Hawai'i residents especially those

receiving the recently reinstated Medicaid dental benefits. No-cost approaches to improving access to dental care, such as these, are an effective means of protecting the State's investment in ensuring the health and quality of life that everyone in Hawai'i deserves.

For these reasons, I humbly ask you to **support** these proposed revisions to the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lauren N. Bundschuh, DDS

Dental Director

Ho'ola Lahui Hawaii



March 17, 2023

9 a.m.

Conference Room 329

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

To: House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: SB162 SD2 — RELATING TO DENTISTRY LICENSES

Comments Only

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on [SB162 SD2](#), which would allow the state Board of Dentistry to issue community service licenses to practice dentistry and dental hygiene as well as temporary licenses to practice dentistry, provided the applicants meet certain specified criteria.

If enacted, this bill would be a positive step toward addressing Hawaii's shortage of medical professionals, which has led to significant barriers to healthcare access, especially on the neighbor islands.

It is well established that Hawaii is suffering from a shortage of vital healthcare workers, including dentists. The Hawaii Department of Health has designated both Maui and Hawaii Counties — as well as a segment of the City and County of Honolulu — as Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas.¹

Fixing the shortage in healthcare workers in Hawaii requires a multipronged strategy that will address everything from the state's high cost of living to its regulatory scheme for healthcare

¹ ["Hawaii Health Professional Shortage Areas,"](#) Hawaii Department of Health, August 2020.

facilities. Perhaps most important is the need to reform licensing regulations for healthcare professionals.

One-fourth of all licensed workers in the U.S. work in healthcare.² Their licenses can be difficult to obtain, are expensive and carry geographic or “scope of practice” limitations.

As discussed in the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii’s new policy brief on medical licensing, [“How changing Hawaii’s licensing laws could improve healthcare access.”](#) the state’s shortage of healthcare professionals makes its restrictions on healthcare workers who already hold licenses in other U.S. states seem redundant and self-defeating.³

As the Federal Trade Commission noted in a report on occupational licensing portability:

There is little justification for the burdensome, costly, and redundant licensing processes that many states impose on qualified, licensed, out-of-state applicants. Such requirements likely inhibit multistate practice and delay or even prevent licensees from working in their occupations upon relocation to a new state. Indeed, for occupations that have not implemented any form of license portability, the harm to competition from suppressed mobility may far outweigh any plausible consumer protection benefit from the failure to provide for license portability.⁴

In other words, though medical licensing is intended to protect the public, there is a point at which the level of regulation reduces the number of people in practice without an appreciable public benefit.

One study of licensing among medical professionals found that “licensing is associated with restricted labor supply, an increased wage of the licensed occupation, rents, increased output prices, and no measurable effect on output quality.”⁵

This is where we can benefit from the lessons learned during the coronavirus situation. The governor’s emergency modification to state licensing laws demonstrated a need to embrace

² Ryann Nunn, [“Improving Health Care Through Occupational Licensing Reform.”](#) RealClear Markets, Aug. 28, 2018

³ Malia Hill, [“How changing Hawaii’s licensing laws could improve healthcare access.”](#) Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, February 2023, pp. 5-7.

⁴ Karen Goldman, [“Options to Enhance Occupational License Portability.”](#) U.S. Federal Trade Commission, September 2018, p. 25.

⁵ Sean Nicholson and Carol Propper, [“Chapter Fourteen — Medical Workforce.”](#) in “Handbook of Health Economics, Vol. 2,” Elsevier, B.V., 2012, p. 885, cited also in the previously mentioned [FTC study](#), footnote #9, p3.

license portability, making it a simple matter for a medical professional licensed in another state to practice in Hawaii.

The expanded permissions to issue temporary and community service licenses for dentistry and dental hygiene outlined in this bill are a partial answer to the need to attract more dentists to Hawaii.

Over the long term, lawmakers should consider other ways to enhance license portability, to help end health professional shortages and improve healthcare access for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns,
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Date: March 17, 2023

House Committee on Health and Homelessness

To: the Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair

the Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

and the distinguished committee members

Re: S.B.162.SD2, Relating to Dentistry and Dental Hygiene Licenses

Hrg: March 17, 2023 at 9:00 am

Testifier: Dr. Don B. Sand, DDS

Mahalos to each of you for your time and attention today to study this critical measure.

I am a dentist who has provided frontline dental care to the underserved in Hawaii for eight years. For seven years, I have been a leader in our safety-net sector, a practice management consultant in our FQHC system and in private practice offices. Although I currently serve in 4 dental coalitions today I am testifying as an individual dentist.

I stand in strong support of bill SB.162, SD2

All of the referring committee have found that oral health is a critical component of overall health and wellness.

The referring committees have found that there is a critical shortage of oral health professionals in the State.

The referring committees agree that this measure can increase the number of available public health dentists and dental hygienists who primarily treat the State's underserved and vulnerable populations and this measure is crucial to address the noticeable shortage that contributes to the States oral health disparities. This “no-cost” measure is an effective means of ensuring the and quality of life for all of Hawaii’s residents

This bill does not change in any way the original intent or scope of practice for the community service license but only aims to clarify the language by describing in detail the service entities that these charity- minded professionals can serve by adding the phrase “community health center”. We humbly ask that this term be further clarified by describing the additional venues that community service dentists may be licensed including: rural health clinics, Medicaid clinics, mobile dental outreach to the homeless and primary prevention programs like our school-based Keiki Sealant outreach.

This legislative session is an opportunity not only to act on the immediate oral health crisis, but with longer-term strategic planning, this is an opportunity to create policy infrastructure for significant strides to build and implement workforce capacity in a 2-5 year roadmap. Key language is needed to be able to apply community service licenses in both current programs for the underserved as well as for the proposed, more impactful long-term solutions.

Specific Medicaid and preventive programs that are now operating but without having benefits of hiring community services license professionals due to this critical language being missing include:

1. The Keiki Sealant program in our title 1 school-based program
2. The rural health dental care department at Kahuku Medical Center
3. The homeless outreach preventive programs at several homeless villages including Pu'uhoonua O Waianae, at Hui Mahi ai Aina and other homeless communities
4. The charity clinic at Aloha Medical Mission

Equally needed for our State's long-term plan, is the language need to described the best practice outreach dental projects models currently running in other states that are in being proposed and developed here in Hawaii to address the dramatic disparities that include:

1. Preventive mobile dental programs for the homeless and vulnerable
2. Federally qualified "look-alikes" have dental care service needs but as they are in development are often not yet supported by fqhc grants.
3. ACOs, Accountable Care Organizations are non-profit dental business models that can provided quality care at more affordable rates as compared to DSO, Dental Service Organizations that are often investment companies working in the dental space. The ACO model is likely the single most important evidence-based model that can be adapted to fill our State's dental care capacity shortfall.

Without further defining or describing these other essential venues in the term community health centers there remains a risk of misinterpreting the language to mean that only federally qualified community health centers are allowed to recruit community service license professionals.

The second provision in this bill is intended to clarify the phrase CODA accredited and the phrase CODA recognized in describing health care professions of "**equivalent**" high standard of training and licensure in their home state (USA) and their home country (Canada).

This bill will reduce the workforce shortage in the public dental sector, and in rural and neighbor islands to improve access to dental care and reduce oral health disparities.

As Hawai'i continues to document poor oral health outcomes among our vulnerable populations, we must continue to work together to enhance innovative, resourceful and proactive approaches to increase access to care while maintaining the quality of care our residents deserve.

Mahalo for your consideration and strong support of SB.162, SD2. Much Mahalos for this opportunity to testify.

Dr. Don Sand, DDS

To: House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Hearing Date/Time: March 17, 2023 at 9:00AM; Conference Room 329 & Videoconference
Re: Support for SB162, SD2, Relating to Dentistry Licenses

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB162 SD2.

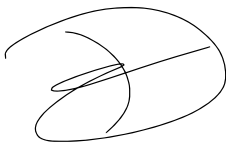
I am a dentist who works with underserved and Indigenous populations across Canada. I recently completed my Master of Public Health which included conducting research with Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition. I was surprised to observe the poor access to care that many vulnerable people in Hawai'i face. The resulting poor oral health translates into poor overall health. This inequality further results in a huge expense to the health care system.

I have passed my INBDE and ADEX exams, in the hopes of obtaining licensure in Hawai'i to work with underserved populations. Unlike the vast majority of states in America, I was informed that even though I passed my INBDE, ADEX, and my dental school in Canada meets the accreditation standards that are recognized by the ADA's CODA-CDAC mutual reciprocal agreement, I am ineligible for licensure.

If Hawai'i recognizes the reciprocal agreement between CODA and CDAC, this will allow qualified, board certified dentists, who have passed the INBDE, to provide preventative and restorative care to vulnerable populations in underserved areas. This can drastically improve the health of these communities and decrease the overall financial burden on the state. No-cost approaches to improving access to care are an effective means of protecting the State's investment in ensuring the health and quality of life that everyone in Hawai'i deserves, especially those receiving the recently reinstated Medicaid dental benefits.

I humbly ask you to **support** these proposed revisions to the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act and pass SB162 SD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Davidson', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Dr. Andrew Davidson
BSc, DMD, MPH

SB-162-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 10:05:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| James Nelson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha members of the Committee

My dentist at Waikiki Health dental clinic in Moiliili tells me that this measure will help her attract talented dentists, hygienists, and young new resident dentists to Hawaii. It is very important for community health centers to provide dental care in addition to medical primary care. Mahalo for supporting this measure and moving it forward to its next committee.

Date: March 17, 2023

Committee: House Committee on Health and Homelessness

Bill #: SB 162, SD2, RELATING TO DENTISTRY LICENSES

Testifier: Nancy S. Partika, RN, MPH

Aloha Chairperson Au Belatti, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members;

My name is Nancy Partika, and, as a lifelong public health professional, I wish to indicate strong support for SB 162, SD2, which proposes to revise the Hawai'i Dental Practice Act to allow community health centers to recruit eligible candidates for temporary and community service licenses, allow graduates of ADA-Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) recognized institutions eligibility for temporary and community service licenses and includes the Integrated National Dental Board Examination as an acceptable examination requirement.

I support the findings and recommendations that the Hawaii Oral Health Coalition has offered in its testimony on SB 162, SD2.

Currently, oral health care in Hawaii is available to those who can afford it. Those who cannot/do not have adequate dental insurance struggle to get even acute dental needs met. All ages are adversely affected by the broken oral health system—from young keiki to our elderly, as are all islands.

The 2022 Hawaii State Legislative session allocated over \$25 million to MQD/DHS to reinstate adult dental benefits and MQD-DHS has rolled out the reinstatement of adult dental benefits for Medicaid as of January 2023.

The dental provider network to serve an estimated 329,000 adults and children currently on Medicaid is currently inadequate, and significantly depends on the dental services provided by Hawaii's 14 FQHCs, which served just under 40,000 persons total in CY 2021. Only 11% of Hawaii's dental providers serve 100 or more persons on Medicaid, likely due in part to the fact that adult recipients have had emergency-only benefits from 2009-2022.

SB 162, SD2 proposes needed change to community service, hygiene, and temporary dental licenses. The community service and temporary licenses for post-doctoral dental residency programs will continue to require clinical oversight of these licenses by the employing entity or residency program. Only authorized entities that are community-based or focused may hire individuals with a community service license.

This bill will help increase access to care while maintaining the quality of care our residents deserve, by strengthening our public dental sector, which is currently the primary provider of dental care to underserved populations, such as Medicaid recipients and rural/neighbor island communities.

This proposed action is just one element of a larger systemic strategy that is needed to help to move us in the direction of improved health and dental services access and delivery. Mahalo for your consideration of SB 162, SD2.

SB-162-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 2:41:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrew Kagemoto | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Thank you Chair Belatti for the opportunity to testify in strong support!



Testimony in Support of SB 162 SD2

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

March 15, 2023, 9:00AM

Relating to Dentistry Licenses

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and respected members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association (HDHA) strongly **SUPPORTS SB 162 SD2**. This measure works to revise the existing Hawaii Dental Practice Act, allowing FQHC's and other community health centers to recruit eligible dentist and dental hygiene candidates more effectively for temporary and community service licenses. The requested changes in Hawaii Revised Statutes, will allow graduates of ADA-Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) institutions with reciprocal agreements the ability for swifter licensure in Hawaii should they be employed solely in a defined, public health setting.

Increasing the number of eligible candidates for community service and temporary licensure in Hawaii is important because of a noticeable shortage over the last few years of public health dentists and dental hygienists who are the primary providers for Hawaii's underserved and vulnerable populations including Medicaid recipients who will benefit from recent legislation to include adult dental benefits.

Oral health is a critical component of overall health and wellness. **SB 162 SD2** will help address the workforce shortage in the public health dental sector, improving access to quality dental care and help to reduce Hawaii's oral health disparities. This "No-Cost" approach to improve access to dental care, is an effective means of ensuring the health and quality of life for all of Hawaii's residents.

As the largest association representing Hawaii's licensed dental hygienists, HDHA strongly **SUPPORTS SB 162 SD2** and humbly ask your committee to support these proposed revisions to the Hawaii Dental Practice Act. Thank you for your consideration.

Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association

2023 Regulations and Practice Committee

SB-162-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 2:20:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Dr Marion Ceruti | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill because it will improve health-care options in Hawai'i. Please, kokua, vote YES on SB162.