



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Thursday, April 13, 2023
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 548, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
BOARD OF DENTISTRY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JONATHAN LAU,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2026**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Y. Ando, and I am the Director for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the confirmation of Dr. Jonathan Lau's appointment to the Board as a dentist member from Maui.

Dr. Lau has been serving as a Board member since his interim term began on July 1, 2022. He has been licensed as a dentist since August 21, 1996, and his license is current, active and in good standing. Since Dr. Lau's appointment, there have been 4 meetings, of which he has attended 3.

Dr. Lau diligently prepares for the matters on the Board's agenda to actively participate in meeting discussions. Further, by sharing insights he has gained over his many years of experience as a licensed dentist, he has made significant contributions to the Board's deliberations on various issues. As a dental member from Maui, Dr. Lau is

Testimony of the DCCA

G.M. 548

Page 2 of 2

uniquely equipped to share the perspectives and concerns of the Maui community and provide representation for his county.

The Department believes that Dr. Lau's continued desire to serve on the Board and commitment to active participation in board meetings will continue to enhance the Board's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



Hawaii Dental Association

PO Box 2241, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Phone: 808.593.7956 Toll-free: 800.359.6725

Email: hda@hawaiidentalassociation.net Website: www.hawaiidentalassociation.net

April 13, 2023

Hawaii State Legislature
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Attn: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

RE: In support, GM 548 Gubernatorial Nominee Dr. Jonathan Lau for the Board of Dentistry

Aloha Chair Keohokalole:

The Hawaii Dental Association fully supports Dr. Jonathan Lau for the Board of Dentistry. A Kauai County native, he has represented not only the citizens of Kauai but all within the State. He brings to the Board of Dentistry his profound knowledge and expertise in general dentistry. He is highly capable of making sound decisions for the safety and wellbeing of the patients of the state.

Respectfully,

Norman S. Chun, DMD
President

GM-548

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 10:20:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/13/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis N Ishimoto DDS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Jonathan Lau DDS is an excellent choice to serve on the Board of Dentistry for the County of Maui. He has served Maui as a qualified, skilled dentist with compassion and empathy for his patients. He donates his time as an instructor at the UH Maui Dental Hygiene School and is well-liked by the students and faculty.

I have known Jon for many years, both professionally and personally. The board needs people willing to serve the profession and the people of the State. His experience as a dentist, a member of organized dentistry and his respect and commitment to patient care is outstanding; these qualities will be an asset as a member of the Board of Dentistry.

Sincerely, Dennis N. Ishimoto, DDS

EARL A. HASEGAWA, D.D.S., M.S.

Fellow, American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

Wakea Gardens Building
135 South Wakea Ave., Suite 103
Kahului, Hawaii 96732
Telephone: (808) 877-7775
Fax: (808) 877-4058

April 8, 2023

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 205
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM548 Support for Jonathan Lau to the Board of Dentistry

Dear Senator Keohokalole:

I am pleased to write a letter in support of Dr. Jonathan Lau for a position on the Hawaii Dental Board, for a term to expire 6/30/2026. When I started my Oral Surgery practice on Maui in 1995, Dr. Lau was one of the first to trust me with the care of his patients and has been a well respected friend and colleague ever since. He has a reputation as a dentist who treats his patients with quality and compassion, and I don't think that I have ever had a patient who has not had a positive experience under his care.

Although he has maintained a very busy practice, he has always had the ability to give back to the community. Over the years his resume of volunteerism goes beyond what is listed on his CV. An example was the many consecutive years of volunteering at the 4H Keiki Fest where he would help with the Maui County Dental Society hand out toothbrushes while educating children on oral hygiene. He provided free dentistry as a volunteer at one of the first patient treatment clinics at the Maui Oral Health Center. He also helped when the Maui County Dental Society would provide education at the Senior Fair. Most of these events were on weekends and despite his family obligations, he was one of the individuals that organizers could always count on to help.

Dentistry is constantly evolving with many techniques and procedures performed that often times may push the envelope on the scope of practice. Dr. Lau's involvement with study groups such as the Seattle Study Club and his assisting with UH Maui Dental Hygiene Program will allow him to stay abreast in the latest innovations that the Board of Dentistry may need to examine and possibly help regulate.

Being a member of the Board of Dentistry requires the individual to carefully examine the issues related to protection of the public, and with an open mind help the Board arrive at a rational decision. Dr. Lau has the years of experience, knowledge and work ethic to fulfil his obligation to the Board.

Sincerely,



Earl Hasegawa, DDS, MS

GM-548

Submitted on: 4/9/2023 8:15:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/13/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO

GM-548

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 7:28:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/13/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Hearon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Dr. Heather Hearon and it is my honor to be writing testimony in support of Dr. Jonathan Lau (a wonderful and dedicated general dentist here in Wailuku) to serve as the Maui representative for the Hawaii Board of Dentistry. Dr. Lau has been serving his patients and his local community for almost 40 years. His patients and staff not only adore him the passionate dentist he is, but also for the caring, and considerate person he is. He keeps up to date on all the latest dental technology, he is an active member of the well-respected Maui Postgraduate Dental Forum (an affiliate of the highly-regarded Seattle Study Club), and he lives, as well as works, with pure aloha for his patients and staff. He also finds time in his busy schedule to teach hygiene students at the local hygiene school on how to be wonderful and caring dental care providers. He is the type of dentist who will bring both the dental community's and the local community's needs to the table. He is thoughtful, dedicated, and will also serve to preserve the integrity of our local Hawaii dental community. I do not believe you will find someone more deserving to be on the Hawaii Board of Dentistry than Dr. Jonathan Lau. Thank you for your careful consideration of Dr. Lau.

GM-548

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 8:45:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/13/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leanne E Higa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 5, 2023

Hawaii State Board of Dental Examiners

Dear Dental Examiners,

Dr. Jonathan Lau would be an excellent addition to the board of dental examiners. He has a heart to serve the community and has been actively involved in several community endeavors. The time that he dedicates to the Maui Tennis Club, and various other community organizations are commendable. For the benefit of the dental hygiene students, Dr. Lau volunteers his time to helping all of the Maui students learn from his wisdom and wealth of knowledge.

Dr. Lau has many years of clinical experience which would be of great service to the board. He has had to deal with various legal and ethical issues in his private practice as well as in the dental hygiene program at the University of Hawaii Maui College. The profession of dentistry and dental hygiene are of utmost concern to Dr. Lau and he would work tirelessly to maintain and improve the standard of care in the State of Hawaii.

I have personally known Dr. Lau since 2009 and he has always been an advocate for the prevention of dental disease and for the health and welfare of those in his community. There are qualities that he possesses that will enhance the board of dentistry, such as his willingness to help others and his zeal for learning.

Please consider Dr. Jonathan Lau for the position on the board of dental examiners.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Leanne Higa, RDH, BS, MEd

Dental Hygienist

LATE

GM-548

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 11:19:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/13/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Vargas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Catherine Vargas, and I am a practicing dentist in Maui. I am writing to support Dr Jonathan Lau to serve as a representative for the Hawaii Board of Dentistry. Dr Lau a upstanding member in the dental community of Maui. I first meet Dr Lau in a local study club, and found he is also a member of the American Dental Association, Hawaii Dental Association, as well as the local Maui County Dental Society. I now work with Dr Lau at Wailuku Dental Group and consider him a wonderful mentor who is generous with sharing his knowledge. With over 30 years of experience in this field, he is a wealth of knowledge not only regarding clinical dentistry, but also patient management and care. He is one of the most kind and compassionate people I know, and his patients and colleagues have nothing but wonderful things to say about him. Dr Lau also volunteers teaching at the Hygiene program at Maui College, further sharing his knowledge with growing new members of our community.

I truly believe Dr Lau is an excellent choice as a representative of the Hawaii Board of Dentistry. He has many years of clinical experience, is an outstanding member to the Maui community, easily connects with people, and has shown great integrity when interacting with patients. I trust him to serve the dental community of Hawaii well in this role.