



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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February 20, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senate Bill 2476 – Relating to Dental Hygienists

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2476 – Relating to Dental Hygienists.

This bill authorizes licensed dental hygienists to perform preventative dental sealant screenings and apply dental sealants on individuals, under certain conditions, in a Department of Education school-based oral health program.

Poor oral hygiene is linked to a variety of medical conditions, and disadvantaged and rural populations often have difficulty obtaining quality preventive oral health care. Establishing such a program at public schools will help to bridge this gap and improve public health in the future.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

Testimony of the Board of Dentistry

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Tuesday, February 20, 2024
9:35 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 2476, RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheena Choy, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Dentistry (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize licensed dental hygienists to perform preventative dental sealant screenings and apply dental sealants on individuals, under certain conditions, in a Department of Education school-based oral health program.

The Board supports the bill's intent to strengthen school-based oral health programs, which will support the prevention of tooth decay amongst Hawaii's youth. The Board emphasizes the importance of dental examinations, and notes that the proposed amendments will still require licensed dental hygienists to refer individuals not currently under the care of a dentist and who are seen in a public health setting to a dental facility for further dental care, pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes chapter 447-3(d).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 9:35 a.m.

by

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep, Dean
Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing

and

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2476 – RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on **SB 2476 in support**.

This measure authorizes dental hygienists who are under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist to perform preventive dental sealant screenings and apply dental sealants on certain individuals in a school-based oral health program.

The dental hygiene program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing (UHM NAWSON) is the only baccalaureate level program in the state and is accredited by CODA. It offers the educational preparation required of dental hygienists to provide oral health care and education to the people of Hawai'i, the continental U.S., and the Pacific-Asia region. Students majoring in dental hygiene can become licensed professionals who offer preventive, education, and therapeutic services for the control of oral diseases and the promotion of optimum oral health. Students receive education in basic dental hygiene, dental and oral pathology (disease), clinical dental hygiene, dental materials and more. Students gain competency in screenings to assess eligibility for preventive services, and applying dental materials such as dental sealants during the course of their education. Dental Hygienists hold the competencies and qualifications to complete, comprehensively and safely, the duties and responsibilities described in this measure.

Further, the UHM NAWSON partners with the Department of Education on the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program. This nationally recognized program infuses school nurses and health technicians throughout DOE public schools, as well as coordinating dental health services including screenings and preventive sealant clinics throughout the state. The Hawai'i Keiki program maintains on contract a dentist for consultation throughout all dental hygienist screening and preventive service events.

This bill clarifies that preventive dental sealant screenings and application of preventive dental sealants are within the scope of work for a dental hygienist when a dentist is available for consultation. This bill would improve access to care by enabling real-time consultations rather than in-person oversight, thus facilitating oral health preventive programs to have greater scalability and reach. It is with pride that Hawai'i Keiki contributes to not only physical health improvement for the children of Hawai'i, but also oral health improvement. Improved functioning of our dental sealant activities by way of this bill will have tremendous outcomes for the children of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supporting testimony related to this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/20/2024

Time: 09:35 AM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Commerce and
Consumer Protection

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2476 RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes licensed dental hygienists to perform preventative dental sealant screenings and apply dental sealants on individuals, under certain conditions, in a Department of Education school-based oral health program.

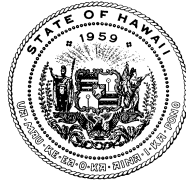
Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2476, which permits licensed dental hygienists to perform preventive dental sealant screenings and apply preventive dental sealants in conjunction with a licensed dentist in a school-based dental program.

During the 2022-23 school year, students in Department schools statewide sought care in the health room 833 times due to an oral/dental concern, with an average visit time of 12 minutes. Children with poor oral health lose valuable class time due to pain and appointments for treatment, negatively impacting their overall health and well-being.

Taking proactive steps to strengthen school-based oral health and sealant programs will support the prevention of tooth decay amongst Hawaii's children, helping to ensure they are healthy and ready to learn.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2476.



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. 2476
RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALO, CHAIR
SENATOR CAROL FUKUNAGA, VICE CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Hearing Date: 2/20/2024

Room Number: CR 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports this measure that permits licensed
3 dental hygienists to conduct dental sealant screenings and apply dental sealants when under the
4 general supervision of a licensed dentist in a school-based oral health program.

5 This measure aims to streamline the dental sealant process by permitting dental hygienists to
6 perform dental sealant screenings without requiring an examination or treatment plan by a dentist.
7 This will significantly reduce the labor costs of a dentist performing dental sealant screenings in
8 schools and eliminates of an expensive barrier to promote, develop, and sustain school-based oral
9 health programs.

10 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Dental Association studies
11 cite the application of dental sealants to molars as one of the most effective practices in preventing
12 tooth decay among children. Research indicates that providing dental sealants through school-based
13 oral health programs is a cost-effective strategy to reach low-income children, who are at a higher
14 risk of developing tooth decay. Hawaii's third-graders have one of the highest prevalence of tooth
15 decay in the nation.

16 This proposed practice aligns with the dental practice act in most states, follows best
17 evidence-based practices, and serves as a proactive step toward improving the oral health of children,
18 particularly those at greater risk.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

20 **Offered Amendments:** None.

SB-2476

Submitted on: 2/16/2024 4:53:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2024 9:35:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support SB2476

www.WeAreOne.cc



Hawaii Dental Association

Committees: Senate, Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee

Time/Date: 9:35 a.m., February 20, 2024

Location: State Capitol Conference Room 329 and via Videoconference

Re: SB 2476, Relating to Dental Hygienists

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Fukunaga, and members of the committee,

The Hawaii Dental Association (HDA) is a professional association comprised of approximately 950-member dentists. **We are in support of SB 2476**, relating to dental hygienists. This bill authorizes dental hygienists who are under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist to perform preventive dental sealant screenings and apply dental sealants on certain individuals in a school-based oral health program.

This February hearing could not be timelier, coming during children's oral health month. We have participated in stakeholder meetings with other members of the Hawaii Oral Health Coalition as this bill was being conceived and we support it. HDA's longstanding commitment to the health and well-being of Hawaii's keiki will culminate in its annual free children's oral health clinic at the Waikiki Health Clinic's Makahiki clinic on February 24 and we will continue to advocate for policies that improve children's oral health each and every day.

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 testify in support of SB 2476.



HAWAII ORAL HEALTH COALITION

Date: February 20, 2024

To: The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Support for SB 2476, Relating to Dental Hygienists

Hrg: February 20, at 9:35am - Conference Room 229 & via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition, a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ, is in **strong support of SB 2476**, which allows dental hygienists to apply a dental sealant under general supervision of a licensed dentist in school-based oral health programs, without requiring a child to be an existing patient of record, receive a comprehensive dental examination, or receive a comprehensive treatment plan prior to receiving the dental sealant.

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 improving access 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.

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 healthⁱⁱ:

- 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.
- 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.

Children in Hawai'i have the highest rate of tooth decay in the nation. This bill would increase access to oral healthcare through school-based programs that provide dental sealants. According to the Hawai'i Smiles 2015 report, more than 60% of Hawai'i children do not have protective sealants and recommend prevention programs such as school-based oral health programsⁱⁱⁱ. Further, the Hawai'i Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division, reported that only 10.7% of children with Medicaid aged 6-14 years have protective sealants in 2019^{iv}.

Children in Hawai'i have the highest prevalence of tooth decay among third graders in the United States. More than 70% of Hawai'i third graders are affected by tooth decay, compared to the national average of 52%ⁱⁱ. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Dental Association promote sealants as the most effective preventative strategy in tooth decay.

School-based sealant programs are efficient and cost effective, as each tooth sealed saves more than \$11 in dental treatment costs making them an ideal solution to closing oral health care gaps throughout the state^{v,vi}. School sealant programs can reach children who are most at risk for developing cavities, including low-income children and children in rural areas^{vii}. These programs are designed to reach children from low-income families who are less likely to seek out oral healthcare, and are at higher risk for other tooth decay problems.

This proposed measure is a zero-cost approach that will improve the efficiency and impact of existing school-based sealant efforts and support expansion of school-based oral health programs in our vulnerable communities. For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to pass SB 2476. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,



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

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

ⁱⁱ Family Health Services Division, Hawai'i Department of Health. 2015. *Hawaii Oral Health: Key Findings*. https://health.hawaii.gov/about/files/2013/06/Key_Findings_wC.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ Family Health Services Division, Hawai'i Department of Health. 2015. *Hawaii Smiles 2015 The Oral Health of Hawaii's Children*. <https://health.hawaii.gov/about/files/2013/06/Hawaii-Smiles-Report.pdf>

^{iv} MedQUEST Division, Hawai'i State Department of Human Services. (2019). *CMS 416 Reports*. Retrieved from: <https://www.hawaiihealthmatters.org/indicators/index/dashboard?alias=OralHealth>

^v Griffin, S., Naavaal, S., Scherrer, C., Griffin, P. M., Harris, K., & Chattopadhyay, S. (2016). School-Based Dental Sealant Programs Prevent Cavities And Are Cost-Effective. *Health affairs (Project Hope)*, 35(12), 2233–2240. <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2016.0839>

^{vi} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016, October 18). *Vital Signs: Dental Sealant Use and Untreated Tooth Decay Among U.S. School-Aged Children*. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*. https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6541e1.htm?s_cid=mm6541e1_w

^{vii} Community Preventive Services Task Force. (2016, April 1). *Oral Health: Preventing Dental Caries, School-Based Dental Sealant Delivery Programs*. https://www.thecommunityguide.org/media/pdf/Oral-Health-Caries-School-based-Sealants_0.pdf

February 18, 2024

Testimony in Support of SB 2476, Relating to Dental Hygienists

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

9:35 am

Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Committee Members:

Hawaii Dental Service (HDS) **strongly supports** SB2476, Relating to Dental Hygienists, because it will expand access to dental sealants, a proven preventive measure against tooth decay, for Hawai'i's most vulnerable keiki.

In response to the Department of Health's 2015 Hawai'i Smiles report that documented that more than 60% of children in Hawaii do not have dental sealants, the HDS Foundation formed a partnership with the University of Hawai'i to provide dental sealants for underserved children attending Hawai'i's Title I elementary schools.

The UH Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing's Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program and the HDS Foundation collaborate with the Hawai'i Department of Education to provide sealants to protect the teeth of children at no cost to families. We officially launched the Seal Away Decay program on O'ahu in 2020, expanded to Maui and Kaua'i and this year will expand to the Big Island.

In 2022-23 school year, the Seal Away Decay program provided oral screenings to more than 2,000 second graders in 68 schools on O'ahu, Maui and Kaua'i. Of those who were screened, 60% received sealants and 65 were referred to a dentist for urgent care.

The school-based sealant program is a powerful preventive tool to reach those who are hard to reach. There is room for improvement and expansion. If SB2476 becomes law, more keiki in more schools could take advantage of sealants to improve the oral health of Hawaii children.

Dental hygienists are trained to identify when sealants may be appropriate and to apply sealants to teeth. However, dental hygienists are currently only able to apply sealants when certain requirements are met: a child must be a patient of record with a dental provider and have a treatment plan from that provider before receiving a protective sealant. These requirements create administrative barriers that hinder efficiency and effectiveness of school-based oral health programs.

Allowing dental hygienists to apply sealants at the time of screening in a school-based setting is an effective, cost-free solution that improves oral health outcomes.

While dental hygienists perform these key prevention activities, supervising dentists can prioritize patients' advanced care needs. This would improve the sustainability, efficiency, and effectiveness of school-based oral health programs while increasing access to care.

Hawai'i's keiki deserve a healthy smile. Mahalo for considering SB2476.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane S.L. Paloma", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Diane S.L. Paloma
President and CEO
Hawaii Dental Service

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Re: SB2476 in strong support
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 229
February 20, 2024; 9:35 am

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, 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 2476** relating to Dental Hygienists.

Children in Hawai'i have the highest rate of tooth decay in the nation. This bill would increase access to oral healthcare through school-based programs that provide dental sealants. According to the Hawai'i Smiles 2015 report, more than 60% of Hawai'i children do not have protective sealants and recommend prevention programs such as school-based oral health programs. Children in Hawai'i have the highest prevalence of tooth decay among third graders in the United States. More than [70 percent](#) of Hawai'i third graders are affected by tooth decay, compared to the national average of 52%. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) and the American Dental Association (ADA) cite sealants as the most effective preventative strategy for tooth decay.

This proposal would allow dental hygienists to apply dental sealants in school-based oral health programs under general supervision, meaning the dentist is not directly on-site without a complete treatment plan or examination from the dentist. However, Hawai'i also has the most [severe restrictions](#) on dental hygienists, hindering the increased application of sealants in schools. Antiquated professional scopes of practice prevent dental hygienists from being a powerful contributor to improving children's oral health.

School-based sealant programs are efficient and [cost-effective](#), as each tooth sealed saves more than \$11 in [dental treatment](#) costs, making them an ideal solution to closing oral health care gaps throughout the state. [School sealant programs](#) can reach children who are most at risk for developing cavities, including low-income children and children in rural areas. These programs are designed to reach children from low-income families who are less likely to seek out oral healthcare and are at higher risk for other tooth decay problems. When children have access to a school-based oral health program, they are referred to their dental home in the community to follow up on any procedures and receive family education.

Oral health and physical health are no longer two distinct categories. The impact of poor oral health is felt for a person's lifetime. Hawai'i must turn the tide of poor outcomes for children's oral health. Changing key policies such as the ones outlined in this bill will allow for the expansion of school-based oral health programs and promote healthier, happier keiki. Mahalo for your support of Hawai'i's keiki.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Mai Hall, M.Ed.
Children's Health Coordinator

To: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair House
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

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

Hearing: Friday, February 20, 2024, 9:35 AM, Conference Room 229

RE: **SB2476 Relating to Dental Hygienists**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **SB2476**. This measure authorizes dental hygienists who are under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist to perform preventive dental sealant screenings and apply dental sealants on certain individuals in a school-based oral health program.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 84,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 40 percent of our members are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality, whole-person care for all.

Oral health is an essential aspect of a person's overall health and quality of life. Good oral health is important for healthy pregnancies and avoiding heart disease and diabetes complications and other conditions. Poor oral health is the cause for a wide range of health conditions that affect one's ability to eat, speak, smile and have positive self-esteem.

According to the "Hawaii Smiles 2015" report¹ issued by the Department of Health:

- Our keiki have the highest prevalence of tooth decay in the nation.
- 71% of Hawai'i's third-graders experienced tooth decay, 22% had untreated tooth decay, and 7% needed urgent dental care, compared to 1% nationally.
- More than 60% of Hawai'i keiki do not have protective sealants.
- 38% of Hawaii 3rd graders have sealants. 10.6% of the Medicaid population currently receive dental sealants.

¹ <https://www.hipi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Hawaii-Smiles-Report.pdf>



Further, the DOH report recommended expanding school-based oral health prevention programs at high-risk schools to include, at a minimum, the placement of dental sealants, the application of topical fluorides and oral health education.

As a member of the Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition, AlohaCare supports this measure to improve access to dental sealants by allowing dental hygienists to apply sealants at the time of screening in a school-based setting is an effective, cost-free solution that improves oral health outcomes. While dental hygienists perform these key prevention activities, supervising dentists are able to prioritize patients' advanced care needs. This would improve the sustainability, efficiency, and effectiveness of school-based oral health programs while increasing access to care.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of SB2476**.

SB-2476

Submitted on: 2/16/2024 12:38:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2024 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Samonte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for taking careful consideration.

Thanks,

Ryan S.

SB-2476

Submitted on: 2/16/2024 12:41:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2024 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystal Baba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

SB-2476

Submitted on: 2/16/2024 8:22:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2024 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I support SB2476. This bill authorizes licensed dental hygienists to perform preventative dental sealant screenings and apply dental sealants on individuals, under certain conditions, in a Department of Education school-based oral health program.

Dental sealants are thin coatings painted on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth (molars) that can prevent cavities for many years.

Dental sealants prevent 80% of cavities over 2 years in the back teeth, where 9 in 10 cavities occur. School sealant programs are an effective way to provide millions of children with sealants to prevent cavities.¹

1. Community Preventive Services Task Force. Preventing Dental Caries: School-based Dental Sealant Delivery Programs. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, Community Preventive Services Task Force; 2016.
https://www.thecommunityguide.org/sites/default/files/assets/Oral-Health-Caries-School-based-Sealants_0.pdf

According to Hawaii MedQUEST, more than half of Hawaii's keiki are covered by Medicaid. This coverage rate is listed on

https://medquest.hawaii.gov/content/dam/formsanddocuments/medquest/staywellstaycovered/MedQUEST_Quick%20Facts%20and%20FAQ_2023.pdf.

In 2019, only 10.7% of MedQUEST EPSDT children ages six to fourteen received protective dental sealant according to the Hawaii Health Matters - Oral Health Tracker (<https://www.hawaiihealthmatters.org/indicators/index/dashboard?alias=OralHealth>).

The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, and developmental, and specialty services.

SB2476 will help more children in public school covered by MedQUEST to receive dental sealants. These dental sealants will prevent cavities and improve oral health outcomes for this priority population.

Please support SB2476. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-2476

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 5:56:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2024 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerraine Hignite	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole and Vice Chair Fukunaga,

The following Registered Dental Hygienists and Dental Hygiene Students are in **Strong Support of SB2476:**

Gerraine Hignite, RDH
Kim Schneider, RDH
Stacy Matsuyama, RDH
Tabitha Kukahiko, RDH
Anna Akaka, RDH
Kyoko Tomita, RDH
Maile Mokulehua, RDH
Jaimie Yuen, RDH
Natasha Fong, RDH
Gayle Chang, RDH
Mikiel Lina Agoy, RDH
Dolcy Gebauer, RDH
Joycelyn Swan, RDH
Noelani Greene, RDH
Christen Coloma, RDH
Michele Tui, RDH
Dawn Hillary Oka, RDH
Celda Ponce, RDH
Marianne Timmerman, RDH
Markee Estioko, RDH
Lauren Kam-Felipe, RDH
Teri Matsumura, RDH
Christine Schroeder
Cyndie Rayoan, UHDH Student
Christine Mesa-Keliroomalu,
UHDH Student
Jessica Chan, UHDH Student
Masami Osada, RDH
Penny Su, RDH
Shelby Murdock, RDH

Elizabeth Kelley-Miyashiro,
RDH
Sharon Shishido, RDH
Jacy Watanabe, UHHD Student
Melody Hayase, RDH
Miriam Freire, RDH
Adrienne Ragasa-Lim, RDH
Christopher Gamba, RDH
James Ruiz, RDH
Noelle Nyquist, RDH
Loreizl Cahinhinan, RDH
Nancy Lee, RDH

SB2476 will allow licensed hygienists to perform preventive dental sealant screenings and apply dental sealants, under certain conditions, in a Department of Education school-based oral health program. With the passage of SB2476, this will increase access to oral health care for the keiki in the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo for allowing us to submit testimony on SB2476...

SB-2476

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 9:09:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2024 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Prestler Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a dental hygienist in Hawaii, I've seen the need for oral health outreach above and beyond traditional routine dental visits, especially for our keiki. The simple truth is that many are not receiving the oral health education and preventive care they need. This void of care can lead to a lifetime of total health complications with pain, illness, costly interventions, and social detriments. I was a volunteer screener for the Hawaii Smiles - Head Start & Early Head Start Oral Health Screening program in 2018, and can attest to the need for increased interventions in school-based programs. Not every child makes it into a typical dental setting for treatment. I'd certainly like to see the school- based sealant programs to expand with less restrictions. Sealants have long been within a dental hygienists' scope of practice in our state. I've trusted my own 7 year old child to the professional hygienists dedicated to screening and applying sealants in the Keiki Sealants program just this year.

SB2476 – Relating to Dental Hygienists

I support as written in SB2476, authorizing licensed dental hygienists to perform preventative dental sealant screenings and apply dental sealants on individuals, under certain conditions, in a Department of Education school-based oral health program.

Currently, a child must be a patient of record with a dental provider and have a treatment plan from that provider before receiving a protective sealant. I agree with the Hawai`i Public Health Institute that these “requirements create administrative barriers that hinder efficiency and effectiveness of school-based oral health programs.”

For 28 years in my role as a clinical dental hygienist, I have consistently advocated for dental sealants to parents. I have worked on several Islands and specifically on the Big Island in Waikoloa and in Kona, I treated many CPS cases of noticeable tooth decay in children resulting in these keiki being pulled from their families to get the care they need. Oral Hygiene education in schools and facilitating a dental sealant program is needed. We need a change in the system to allow the keiki to receive the care they needed that Dental Hygienists are able to provide.