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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's oral health  
2 system has been ailing for decades and has struggled to meet the  
3 growing needs of its population statewide, especially those with  
4 health and social disparities, such as Native Hawaiians, Pacific  
5 Islanders, persons with low incomes, persons living in rural  
6 communities, and persons with disabilities.

7           The legislature further finds that there are currently more  
8 than 288,000 recipients of adult dental benefits across Hawaii.  
9 The legislature also finds that statewide emergency department  
10 data analyzed from calendar years 2016-2020 shows that  
11 significant numbers of Hawaii's adult population who receive  
12 medicaid use emergency facilities as their "dental care home",  
13 which is an ineffective method of dental care and a misuse of  
14 resources.

15           Furthermore, the legislature finds that estimates indicate  
16 that the fourteen federally qualified health centers in Hawaii,  
17 the State's safety-net care system, served almost forty thousand



1 patients of all ages (not all of whom receive medicaid  
2 assistance) statewide in calendar year 2021 for dental care  
3 needs. Dental care in federally qualified health centers for  
4 medicaid recipients may be underreported, since the encounters  
5 are "uninsured", due to prior emergency-only medicaid coverage.

6 Moreover, the legislature finds that there are a total of  
7 three hundred thirty-nine active (defined as filing at least one  
8 claim in the last six months) medicaid dentists providing dental  
9 care for medicaid recipients. This total includes twenty active  
10 dentists at federally qualified health centers. Only eleven per  
11 cent of Hawaii's dental providers serve one hundred or more  
12 persons who receive medicaid assistance, likely due in part to  
13 the fact that recipients have had access to emergency-only  
14 dental benefits since 2009.

15 The purpose of this Act is to expand access to dental care  
16 by:

17 (1) Amending the State's qualifications for community  
18 service dentist and dental hygienist licenses by  
19 requiring the acceptance of candidates who are  
20 graduates of programs recognized by the American  
21 Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation,



1           which would increase the pool of eligible dental  
2           professional candidates available to work at the  
3           department of health, federally qualified health  
4           centers, and Native Hawaiian health care systems,  
5           which also includes post-doctorate dental residency  
6           programs for which a temporary license is applicable;

7           (2) Adding "community health center" to the list of  
8           eligible organizations at which those with a community  
9           service license may practice, thus allowing these  
10          providers to better serve Hawaii's medicaid and  
11          uninsured populations; and

12          (3) Amending the State's qualifications for dentist  
13          temporary licenses by requiring the acceptance of  
14          candidates who are graduates of a dental college  
15          recognized by the American Dental Association  
16          Commission on Dental Accreditation.

17          SECTION 2. Section 447-1.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18          amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

19                 "(a) The board of dentistry may issue, without examination,  
20          a community service license to practice dental hygiene in the  
21          employment of a federally qualified health center, Native



1 Hawaiian health care system, community health center, or post-  
2 secondary dental auxiliary training program accredited by the  
3 American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.  
4 Community service licensees under this section shall abide by  
5 the requirements and conditions placed upon those fully licensed  
6 under this chapter.

7 Eligible candidates shall:

8 (1) Provide copies of documentation and credentials that  
9 include but are not limited to:

10 (A) A diploma or certificate of graduation from a  
11 dental hygiene college accredited or recognized  
12 by the American Dental Association Commission on  
13 Dental Accreditation, recognized and approved by  
14 the board; and

15 (B) Either of the following:

16 (i) A certificate or other evidence satisfactory  
17 to the board of having passed the  
18 examination of the National Board Dental  
19 Hygiene Examination, within five years of  
20 the date of request; or



- 1                   (ii) Evidence of active clinical dental hygiene  
2                   practice of not less than one thousand hours  
3                   per year for the three years immediately  
4                   prior to the date of request;
- 5           (2) Provide a copy of an active, unrestricted dental  
6           hygiene practice license from another state;
- 7           (3) Disclose to the board of dentistry all previous and  
8           pending legal or regulatory action relating to claims  
9           of malpractice, personal, or professional misconduct;  
10           and
- 11           (4) Pay applicable registration fees, which shall be one  
12           half of the prevailing biennial registration fee for  
13           dental hygienists.

14 No person who after July 2, 2004, has failed to pass the license  
15 examination administered under this chapter may be issued a  
16 community service dental hygiene license."

17           SECTION 3. Section 448-9.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

19           "(a) The board of dentistry may issue, without  
20 examination, a community service license to practice dentistry  
21 in the employment of the department of health, a federally



1 qualified health center, Native Hawaiian health systems center,  
2 community health center, or post-secondary dental auxiliary  
3 training program accredited by the American Dental Association  
4 Commission on Dental Accreditation. Community service licensees  
5 under this section shall abide by the requirements and  
6 conditions placed upon those fully licensed under this chapter.

7 Eligible candidates shall:

8 (1) Provide copies of documentation and credentials that  
9 include but are not limited to:

10 (A) A diploma or certificate of graduation from a  
11 dental college accredited or recognized by the  
12 American Dental Association Commission on Dental  
13 Accreditation, recognized and approved by the  
14 board; and

15 (B) Either of the following:

16 (i) A certificate or other evidence satisfactory  
17 to the board of having passed part II of the  
18 National Board Dental Examination or the  
19 Integrated National Board Dental Examination  
20 within five years of the date of request; or



1                   (ii) Evidence of active practice of clinical  
2                   dentistry of not less than one thousand  
3                   hours per year for the three years  
4                   immediately prior to the date of request;

5           (2) Provide a copy of an active, unrestricted dental  
6           practice license from another state;

7           (3) Disclose to the board of dentistry all previous and  
8           pending legal or regulatory action relating to claims  
9           of malpractice, or personal or professional  
10           misconduct; and

11           (4) Pay applicable registration fees, which shall be one  
12           half of the prevailing biennial registration fee for  
13           dentistry.

14 No person who after July 2, 2004, has failed to pass the license  
15 examination administered under this chapter shall have the  
16 benefit of a community service dental license."

17           SECTION 4. Section 448-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18           amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

19           "[+] (b) [+] The board of dentistry may issue a temporary  
20           license without examination to any person otherwise qualified to  
21           be examined, who is enrolled in a post-doctoral residency



1 program that is accredited and recognized by the American Dental  
2 Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. Eligible  
3 candidates shall include graduates from a dental college  
4 accredited or recognized by the American Dental Association  
5 Commission on Dental Accreditation, recognized and approved by  
6 the board. The temporary license shall authorize the person to  
7 whom the license is issued to practice dentistry exclusively  
8 under the auspices of the dental residency program and shall be  
9 in force until the earliest of the following occurs:

10 (1) The date the person completes or leaves the residency  
11 program; or

12 (2) The date on which the board revokes the temporary  
13 license;

14 provided that the board may revoke the temporary license at any  
15 time for cause."

16 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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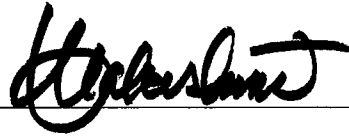




# H.B. NO. 519

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 20 2023



# H.B. NO. 519

**Report Title:**

Dentists and Dental Hygienists; Licensing; Community Health Centers

**Description:**

Amends the qualifications for dentist community service licenses and dentist temporary licenses by requiring the acceptance of candidates who are graduates of a dental college recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. Amends the qualifications for dental hygienist community service licenses by requiring acceptance of candidates who are graduates of a dental hygiene college recognized by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. Adds community health centers to the list of eligible organizations that may employ a dental provider with a community service license.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

