

Testimony of the Board of Dentistry

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Friday, March 21, 2025
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 711, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF DENTISTRY
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, STAPHE FUJIMOTO,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029**

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 the confirmation of Dr. Staphé Fujimoto's reappointment to the Board as a dentist member.

Dr. Fujimoto has been licensed as a Hawaii dentist since September 10, 1985, and his license is current, valid, and in good standing. Since his initial appointment, there have been 17 meetings of which he has attended 16. Mr. Fujimoto previously served a separate term on the Board as a dentist member from November 2012 to August 2020.

Dr. Fujimoto serves as an examiner for dental licensure exams, playing a crucial role in determining whether a person is qualified to practice dentistry. He has also represented the Board at various national and regional conferences, providing the Board with key knowledge of local and national trends in the profession. The Board believes that Dr. Fujimoto's wealth of professional experience, proven commitment to the health, safety, and welfare of the community, and active participation in board meetings will continue to be an asset to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

Fellow, American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

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March 16, 2025

Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Dear Senators Keohokalole and Fukunaga,

Subject: GM711 Testimony in Support of Dr. Staphe Fujimoto

I am writing a letter in strong support for Dr. Staphe Fujimoto to the Hawaii Board of Dentistry. As a former member and Dental Board Chair, I know that characteristics such as integrity and work ethic are essential to the members tasked with overseeing the profession of Dentistry in Hawaii. Dr. Fujimoto has always contributed to the Board with fair and equitable opinions to guide the Board in its decision making. As a private practitioner, he has the experience of his long career in direct patient care to assure that the Board's primary objective of patient protection is fulfilled. Like the other members of the Board who are in private practice, he freely gives up his valuable time and energy for this important volunteer position.

Dr. Fujimoto also has a unique perspective from his experience as a former paramedic. His knowledge and experience is evident in his contributions during Board discussions that require more of a medical background. He is able to quickly understand the potential medical ramifications of policies that could affect patient safety. This knowledge sets him apart from most dentists that may find the subject area more challenging to comprehend.

Dr. Fujimoto is also a key member of the anesthesia subcommittee that carries out the mandated anesthesia inspections of offices. His valuable input was always appreciated during the formulation of the Board's policies on anesthesia administration and inspection criteria. He continues to be a hard working member of the anesthesia inspection team that demands countless volunteer hours to fulfill the Board's obligation to patient safety.

I am happy and honored to recommend Dr. Staphe Fujimoto to another four year term on the Board of Dentistry.

Mahalo,



Earl A. Hasegawa, DDS, MS

GM-711

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 7:29:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bob Marshall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I've known Staphe Fujimoto for many years and find him to be an upstanding dentist and person. He has been on the Board of Dentistry for the past 12 years and I believe he will continue to be a huge contributor in helping protect the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Robert Marshall