

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'AINA O KA MOKU'AINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
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KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Date: Friday, March 21, 2025, at 9:30 AM

Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: G.M. 534, Confirmation to the Board of Dentistry, Gubernatorial Nominee, Steven Pine

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to G.M. No. 534. I am testifying in strong support for Dr. Steve Pine to serve on the Hawaii Board of Dentistry.

Currently, Dr. Pine is the Dental Director at the Hawaii Island Community Health Center (Federally Qualified Health Center), where he oversees a comprehensive dental program with multiple clinics throughout the island of Hawaii. His experience in both private practice and a community dental center, coupled with his strong administrative abilities, prepares him well to manage and address the organizational and policy aspects of dentistry. Under his leadership, the health center has significantly improved access and the quality of dental care for the community.

I have had the privilege of working closely with Dr. Pine on the Virtual Dental Home (Tele-dentistry) Pilot Project and the Hawaii Oral Health Coalition's Leadership Committee. Through these collaborations, I have witnessed his strong analytical skills and capacity to understand/address complex issues. His problem-solving acumen and collaborative nature enable him to work effectively with diverse groups to achieve common goals.

Dr. Pine's commitment to public health is evident in his proactive approach to addressing oral health disparities and access to dental care issues on the island of Hawaii. His experience as both a private and public health dentist brings a vital perspective to the Board.

Based on my experience working with Dr. Pine, I am confident that he possesses the clinical experience and analytical aptitude required to excel as a member of the Hawaii Board of Dentistry. His capacity to collaborate effectively with other Board members and his dedication to upholding dental care standards will undoubtedly benefit both the Board and the State of Hawaii.

As a current member of the Hawaii Board of Dentistry, it would be an honor to serve alongside Dr. Pine. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Tseu", with a stylized, flowing script.

Andrew Tseu, DDS, JD
Hawaii State Department of Health
Chief, Hospital & Community Dental Services Branch

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. 534, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF DENTISTRY
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, STEVENE PINE
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028**

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. Steven Pine's appointment to the Board as a dentist member from Hawaii county.

Dr. Pine has been licensed as a Hawaii dentist since March 8, 2010, and his license is current, valid, and in good standing. Since his interim appointment on July 1, 2024, there have been six meetings of which he has attended five.

Dr. Pine has extensive experience as a dental practitioner in both private practice dentistry as well as in the community health setting. He currently serves as the Chief Dental Officer for the Hawaii Island Community Health Center and contributes a valuable community health perspective to the Board. Additionally, Dr. Pine is actively involved in various professional and community organizations which advance patient safety and quality clinical practice in the dental profession.

The Board believes that Dr. Pine'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.

GM-534

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 3:35:48 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Donnelly	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

My name is Patrick Donnelly and I strongly support the confirmation of Dr. Steven Pine to the Hawai'i Board of Dentistry. I've had the pleasure of working with Dr. Pine in various capacities throughout my work in public health in Hawai'i. I have witnessed his dedication to improving oral health outcomes for residents on Hawai'i Island and across the state first hand. Dr. Pine is a devoted advocate, a visionary leader in community dentistry, and above all, a remarkable individual.

I thank the Committee for your consideration of Dr. Pine for this role and humbly urge his confirmation to the Board of Dentistry.

Mahalo,

Patrick Donnelly

3.21.2025

LATE

To: **COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

Support of GM534 Dr. Steven Pine: Nominee for Hawaii Board of Dentistry.

I am writing in support of GM534 nominee Dr. Steven Pine to the Hawaii State Board of Dentistry. Dr. Pine's continued involvement on the Hawaii Board of Dentistry is advantageous for all Hawaii citizens. I met Dr. Pine during activities with the Hawaii Oral Health Coalition. He has taken the time to understand and facilitate numerous oral health activities that support individuals who have barriers to traditional oral health care. He is involved not only in patient centered care, but safety net program activities, public health initiatives and is supportive of actions that can benefit the entire dental team to serve the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo

Anne Hvizdak, BSDH, CDHC
Hawaii Oral Health Coalition Steering Committee Member
Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association Member
Kauai Oral Health Coalition
669 Aewa St. #375
Eleele, HI (Kauai) 96705
Hvizdak11@gmail.com

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

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Director of Public Policy
Sarielyn Curtis, External Affairs Specialist

Hearing: Friday, March 21, 2025, 9:30 AM, Conference Room 229

RE: **GM534 Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Dentistry, Gubernatorial Nominee, STEVEN PINE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of the confirmation of Dr. Steven Pine to the Hawai'i Board of Dentistry.**

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 70,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 37 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.

AlohaCare values its partnership with Community Health Centers to improve access to quality care for Hawai'i's safety-net populations. Dr. Pine, Chief Dental Officer at Hawai'i Island Community Health Center, has been serving the Big Island community since 2011. He actively works to improve oral healthcare in Hawai'i through various initiatives. AlohaCare collaborates with Dr. Pine on the Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition (HOHC), where he co-chairs the Policy/Advocacy Committee with Paula Arcena. In 2022, the Legislature voted to restore Medicaid adult dental benefits after years of advocacy efforts by HOHC and partners. Dr. Pine continues to advocate for improved access to care. With his commitment to serving the community and his professional expertise and experience, we are confident that Dr. Pine will work to continue to advance the health and well-being of Hawai'i residents. For these reasons and more, we think Dr. Pine is undoubtedly qualified to serve on the Board of Dentistry.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of the confirmation of Dr. Steven Pine to the Hawai'i Board of Dentistry.**



Time/Date: 9:30 am, March 21, 2025

Location: State Capitol Room 229

Committee: Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: GM534, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Dentistry, Gubernatorial Nominee, STEVEN PINE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

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

The Hawaii Dental Association is in support of GM534, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Dentistry, Dr. Steven Pine, for a term to expire on June 30, 2028.

The Hawaii Board of Dentistry plays a critical role in regulating the practice of dentistry in the state, ensuring that professionals meet established standards and provide safe, high-quality care. To fulfill this mission effectively, the Board must include members with both clinical expertise and experience addressing industry-wide dental issues in Hawaii.

Dr. Pine has been practicing dentistry in Hawaii since 2010, serving at both the West Hawaii Community Health Center and the Hawaii Island Community Health Center. As the Advocacy Co-Chair for the Hawaii Oral Health Coalition, he has also demonstrated a vested interest in improving both the quality of the dental industry and oral health in general. Because of this experience both in clinical practice and policy advocacy, we respectfully request that you support his appointment to the Board of Dentistry.

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.