



**The House of Representatives
STATE OF HAWAII**

NEWS RELEASE

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**Hawaii Dental Association Names Rep. Rida Cabanilla
2006 Legislator of the Year**

Honolulu. The Hawaii Dental Association has named State Representative Rida Cabanilla the HDA Legislator of the Year for her outstanding contributions towards the improvement of dental health in the State of Hawaii.

HDA recognizes Rep. Cabanilla for her opposition to House Bill 3141, which authorized the licensure by credentials of dental specialists who are licensed in another state. In casting the lone nay vote against the bill, Rep. Cabanilla cited the adequate number of dentists already in the state and the threat that the bill, if passed, would pose to their jobs.

"The bill would have lowered the standards of dental services in the State and would have jeopardized the level of professional dental services provided by Hawaii residents," said Rep. Cabanilla. She also noted the lack of a reciprocity provision in the bill that would allow Hawaii dentists and dental specialists to practice in other states without examination.

The award will be presented to Rep. Cabanilla in a ceremony at the HDA Awards Banquet which will take place at the Hawaii Prince Hotel ballroom on January 24, 2007.

Rep. Cabanilla was born and grew up in the Philippines and has been a resident of Hawaii since 1970. First elected to the State House of Representatives in November 2004, she represents District 42, comprised of lower Waipahu, Ewa, Ewa Beach and Honouliuli. She currently chairs the House International Affairs Committee, and serves on the committees of Education, Health, Higher Education and Human Services & Housing.

HDA is dedicated to serving the profession of dentistry and the public of the State of Hawaii. The organization aims to promote high professional standards in the practice of dentistry, encourage and promote the improvement of the health of the public, and support the art and science of dentistry as a profession. HDA also advocates against unnecessary government intrusion into the field of dentistry while protecting the dental health of the public and the integrity of the profession. Of the approximately 1000 dentists practicing in Hawaii, 950 are HDA members.

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