

HB2207 HD2

Measure Title: RELATING TO DENTAL ASSISTANTS.

Report Title: Board of Dental Examiners; Rules; Dental Assistants

Description: Requires the Board of Dental Examiners to adopt rules to establish a regulatory structure for the regulation of dental assistants in Hawaii. (HB2207 HD2)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s): TAKUMI, ICHIYAMA

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Thursday, March 22, 2018
9:15 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2207, H.D. 2, RELATING TO DENTAL
ASSISTANTS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Paul Guevara, D.M.D, M.D.S., and I am the Chairperson of the Board of Dental Examiners (“Board”). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2207, H.D. 2, Relating to Dental Assistants, which is identical to S.B. 2926, S.D. 1, H.D. 1.

H.B. 2207, H.D. 2 requires the Board to adopt rules to establish a tiered regulatory structure for the regulation of dental assistants in Hawaii and to report to the 2019 Legislature on its progress in adopting rules.

This bill establishes a tiered approach and regulatory structure for dental assistants and allows the Board time to thoroughly analyze the Office of the Auditors’ Sunrise Analysis: Regulation of Dental Assistants, Report No. 18-02, to develop and amend its administrative rules before moving towards regulation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2207, H.D. 2.



Testimony in Support of **HB 2207, HD2** Relating to Dentistry

Ellie Kelley-Miyashiro, RDH, BS

Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association Regulations and Practice Chairperson
2017-2018

March 19, 2018

Dear Chairperson Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda and Respected Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health:

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association (HDHA) supports the **intent** of **HB2207, HD2**. We applaud your leadership in initiating this important safety measure during the 2018 legislative session.

Currently, dental assistants in Hawai'i do not need any specific education or other qualifications and are not regulated by the State. In Hawai'i, Dental Assistants are identified in statute and administrative rule as unlicensed auxiliary personnel who perform supportive dental procedures under the direct supervision, direction, evaluation, and responsibility of a licensed dentist. Training for dental assistant duties is typically done on-the-job by the supervising dentist or another assistant, and varies from office to office and from dentist to dentist. This "on-the-job" method of training creates a standard of care with little, to no standardization.

It has been determined that several tasks routinely performed by dental assistants in Hawai'i can pose a reasonable risk of injury to patients. Tasks such as, proper infection control and sterilization, use of sharp instruments to remove excess cement or other materials within the mouth, or possible aspiration while taking intraoral impressions, all pose some risk to patients. Because of this risk, HDHA believes all Dental Assistants should be uniformly trained and certified via the Dental Assisting National Board. This certification will then create a framework the State can begin to regulate this important profession.

We are concerned with a tiered system which still allows no additional education, training or certification for dental assistants (Tier 1 Basic Dental Assistant). HDHA feels a more substantial statutory framework of regulation and viable enforcement for the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners would need to be implemented with supportive rules, but this step is one in the right direction. HDHA thanks you for your time and consideration of **HB 2207, HD2**. As always, The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association would like to convey our core desire that dentists, hygienists and dental assistants continue to be integral members of the oral health team, and feel that the public is best served and protected when all members of the Oral Health workforce are properly trained, certified and regulated.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Petition to Submit Testimony in Support of HB2207, HD2

<p>Petition summary and background:</p>	<p>As Registered Dental Hygienists in the state of Hawaii, we SUPPORT the intent of HB2207, HD2 but offers the following comments and recommendations for this measure. The Boards of Dental Examiners has allowable/prohibited duties for dental auxiliary (this includes Dental Assistants) but no regulation or licensing of Dental Assistants in the state of Hawaii. A majority of Dental Assistants in Hawaii are trained on the job by other Dental Assistants or their supervising Dentist.</p>
<p>Action petitioned for:</p>	<p>We, the undersigned are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to SUPPORT HB2207, HD2. For the safety of the public, please consider the sunrise analysis of Dental Assistants recently completed, the cost and feasibility of regulation for Dental Assistants and a comparison with other state's certification and regulation enforcement prior to Board of Dental Examiners adopting rules for regulation of Dental Assistants in Hawaii.</p>

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Hawaii Dental Association

To: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Time/Date: 9:15 a.m., March 22, 2018
Location: Capitol Conference Room 229
Re: HB2207, HD2 Relating to Dental Assistants

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda and members of the committee! On behalf of the Hawaii Dental Association, a professional association comprised of approximately 950-member dentists, we are writing to provide comments on HB2207, HD2. The Hawaii Dental Association (HDA) is a statewide professional membership organization representing dentists practicing in Hawaii and licensed by the State of Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners. HDA members are committed to protecting the oral health and well-being of all of the people of Hawaii, from keiki to kupuna and everyone in between.

The purpose of HB 2207, HD2 is to establish a regulatory framework for dental assistants. Last year, the legislature enacted Act 84 which requested that the state auditor study the issue of regulating dental assistants. The auditor recommended that the State consider a tiered regulatory framework, requiring dental assistants who perform tasks related to patient safety to be credentialed by the State. We believe that a body, such as the Board of Dental Examiners, or a task force comprised of knowledgeable stakeholders, should be tasked with developing such a framework.

We appreciate the legislature's support of the dentistry profession and we look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you to assist in the development of sound oral health policies.