

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2018

Thursday, March 1, 2018  
2:30 p.m.

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

TO THE HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, 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.

H.B. 2207, H.D. 2 requires the Board to adopt rules to establish a regulatory structure for the regulation of dental assistants in Hawaii.

The Board fully supports this H.D. 2 version of the measure, as it 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.



## Hawaii Dental Association

To: The House Committee on Finance  
Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. March 1, 2018  
Location: Capitol Conference Room 308  
Re: HB2207, HD2 Relating to Dental Assistants

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen 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.

**HB-2207-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/1/2018 2:27:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diane Brucato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This testimony is in support of HB2207 HD2. After reading the Sunrise review regarding regulation of dental assistants in Hawaii, this bill would ensure the safety of the public while providing greater opportunity for dental assistants in Hawaii. While I am in strong support of this, I wonder if this bill is slightly premature, as a tiered designation of dental assistants is not yet clearly defined in statute, in order for the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners to promulgate rules to implement the regulation of dental assistants. In a letter from the American Dental Assisting Association (AADA) referenced in the 1/2/2001 Minutes of the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners, the AADA wrote: "With increased technology and minimally trained and knowledgeable assistants, the ADA is requesting the Board to mandate certification, education, and credentialing of all dental assistants." (HBDE Minutes 1/2/2001).

Our Legislative leaders are commended for moving the profession forward in this manner to provide a higher standard of care and ensure public safety. I urge you to follow the advice of AADA/DANB with regard to nomenclature to maintain consistency and clarity.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. Respectfully,  
Diane M. Brucato, RDH, EF, BS, FAADH