

Hawaii State Legislature  
State House of Representatives  
Committee on Health

Representative Ryan I Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health

Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 9:30 a.m. Room 329  
Senate Bill 2700, SD 1 Relating to the Dental Licensure Examination

Honorable Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto and  
members of the House Committee on Health,

My name is Russel Yamashita and I am the legislative representative for the Hawaii Dental Association(HDA) and its 965 member dentists. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 2700, SD 1 Relating to the Dental Licensure Examination. The bill before you today would seek to add another examination which has not been in effect for even one testing cycle.

The HDA supported the adoption of the ADEX examination in 2005 after extensive discussions and deliberation by the Board and the HDA. The Association does not believe that the Board of Dental Examiners has adequately examined this issue and the HDA has been given less than a few months notice of this proposed change with virtually no information available for review until the last two weeks. Since being informed of the Board's intention to effect changes to the examination requirements, the Board has changed its position on this matter four times.

The HDA believes that any changes to the examination to be allowed to meet the license requirement of the dental profession should be by statutory change, with full vetting by the State Legislature and the interested parties to this issue. It is the HDA's belief that this issue should be thoroughly examined and discussed during the interim with any recommended changes for the next legislature to consider.

Therefore, the HDA does not support the passage of SB 2700, SD 1 in its current form and at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in this matter.



**AMERICAN BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS, INC.**

**Scott Houfek, D.D.S., President**  
**Guy Champaine, D.D.S., Vice-President**  
**Bruce Barrette, D.D.S., Secretary**  
**Frank Maggio, D.D.S., Treasurer**

March 15, 2010

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Senate Bill 2700, SD 1 Relating to the Dental Licensure Examination

Honorable Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto and  
Members of the House Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony from the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc. (ADEX) on Senate Bill 2700. The purpose of this testimony is to provide information for the House Committee on Health on its deliberations on potential changes to the examinations requirements for initial licensure for dentistry in Hawaii. ADEX is an organization of 28 State Dental Boards in the United States including the state of Hawaii. The mission of ADEX is the development of reliable, valid, and defensible examinations for initial licensure in dentistry and dental hygiene. ADEX enjoys sound financial footing with a budgetary surplus for fiscal 2010. In addition, ADEX has financial commitments from one of the largest dental testing agencies in the United States.

The current licensure examinations developed by ADEX are completed by over 2000 of the 5600 graduates of accredited dental schools in the United States and accepted by 35 states making it one of the most widely administered examinations in dentistry and dental hygiene. The state of Hawaii and its representatives appointed by the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners have been instrumental in the development and evolution of the examinations from the beginning of ADEX in 2003, when multiple testing agencies came together to develop a uniform initial licensure exam in dentistry and dental hygiene. The ADEX examination was therefore developed with the state of Hawaii which has ongoing input in the process. The state of Hawaii appoints representation to the ADEX Examination Committee, currently has one of the 10 seats on the Board of Directors Members, and the chair of the ADEX Quality Assurance Committee is also from Hawaii. ADEX continues to be the largest dental and dental hygiene examination testing development entity with over 28 state boards participating in the examination development process. In addition, Florida sends consultant representatives to participate in the process. Through this process ADEX assures national input and consensus in the development of its examinations. In addition, ADEX has utilized five nationally recognized testing specialists in the ongoing evaluation and evolution of its examinations. The leadership of ADEX has representation from across the United States and in fact two of its current officers were former CRDTS officers who have chosen to continue their involvement in testing with ADEX.

We have attached several documents for your review and analysis. First are the Technical Reports analyzing the administration of the examinations; Technical Reports are the foundational underpinnings of any examination and should be critically reviewed before the acceptance of any examination process. In addition, we have attached a white paper entitled Evaluating Clinical Licensure Examinations for Dentists and Dental Hygienists authored by four of the most respected nationally recognized testing specialists in the United States which was developed as a guide to analyze examinations and provides a framework for analysis of licensure examinations.

ADEX has benefitted greatly from its relationship with Hawaii as the state provides many fine examiners who participate in our examination around the United States, examiners such as Wally Chong and Stan Kanna who are some of the most experienced examiners in the State of Hawaii if not the US having participated in many regional testing agencies. ADEX looks forward to our continuing relationship with the state of Hawaii and its valuable input in our examination development process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Houfek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Houfek, DDS  
President ADEX

Wallace F. Chong, Jr., DDS  
74 Ponahawai Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
808-935-5651

March 15, 2010

Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health

Senate Bill 2700, SD1 Relating to Dental Licensure Examination

Honorable Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto  
Members of the House Committee on Health

I would like to voice my opposition to SB2700, SD1.

I am a former member of the Hawaii State Board of Dental Examiners (1996-2004) and was the Chair for it 2000-2003. My experience with the ADEX examination is positive and as administered by the NERB (Northeast Regional Dental Board, a testing agency) falls exactly within the rules of anonymity as prescribed by the Pekarsky Case settlement and adhered to by the State of Hawaii for many years. I have done Dental Licensure Examinations under the "Hawaii Exam", WREB (Western Regional), NERB (since 2000), and CRDTS (since the adoption of the ADEX exam). I might be characterized as one of the most experienced "national examiners" from Hawaii.

The present ADEX examination is supported by appropriate independent technical reports and is accepted by 36 States. It also has a valid Dental Hygiene Examination that is supported by appropriate technical reports.

Within the past nine months, I recruited four new examiners to help in administering the ADEX examination for July 2010 in Hawaii. I can say with certainty that all four examiners (one from the HI BDE and 3 with experience with the Hawaii Exam and CRDTS) were impressed by training they received in January 2010 and the majority have completed examining assignments and are impressed by how NERB conducts the examination. There were three other potential examiners recruited (from the HI BDE) that did not attend training and thus ineligible for examining assignments.

Since I live in Hilo, I will not be able to attend your hearing but I am available for consultation via telephone. Hawaii has been and will be well served by the ADEX examination and should be kept as the sole licensure examination.

Sincerely,

Wallace F. Chong, Jr., DDS