

Hawaii State Legislature
State Senate
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Wednesday, February 4, 2009, 9:30 a.m. Room 229

Senate Bill 52 Relating to the Board of Dental Examiners

Honorable Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair David Y. Ige
and the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

My name is Dr. Gary Umeda and I am the President of the Hawaii Dental Association and I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB 52 Relating to the Board of Dental Examiners. This bill will codify what has been an unwritten and common sense rule in the administration of the activities of the Board of Dental Examiners.

Currently, the Board consists of eight licensed Hawaii dentists, two dental hygienists and two public members. It is obvious that the two public members and dental hygienists are not advanced trained dental professionals who can properly determine the oversight of the dental profession. For example, simply you do not expect nor want to have a paralegal overseeing the licensure and disciplining of attorneys.

We understand the need for the public members and dental hygienists and seek just that the leadership reflect the knowledge necessary to conduct the duties of the Dental Board and its area of expertise, Dentistry. This will insure the protection and safety of the public to which its existence is mandated.

Therefore, the members of the Hawaii Dental Association wish to have it clearly stated that the person overseeing the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners have the highest level of training and education when it comes to protecting the public from any potential problems from licensees.