

SB 52

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009**

**Wednesday, February 4, 2009
9:30 a.m.**

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 52, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF DENTAL
EXAMINERS.**

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

My name is Jeffrey Miyazawa, D.D.S., Chair of the Board of Dental Examiners ("Board"). The Board appreciates the opportunity to testify in opposition to S.B. No. 52, Relating to the Board of Dental Examiners.

The purpose of S.B. No. 52 is to require the chair of the Board of Dental Examiners to be a dentist.

The Board is unsure what issues or concerns prompted introduction of this bill, but would like to point out that the purpose of the Board is to protect the public and consumers, and not to advocate a higher status for licensed dentists. All Board members, whether a licensed dentist, a licensed dental hygienist or a public member should be equally allowed to be the Chair of the Board and be voted as such by the members.

The Board is composed of twelve members of which eight are dentists (a two-thirds majority of the Board), two are dental hygienists, and two are public members. There is no other board or commission under the jurisdiction of the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

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that mandates that the Chair be from one of the licensed professions on the Board. It is the role of all boards to protect the public and not to advocate for a particular profession. Accordingly, the Board does not understand why, and knows of no evidence to support, that only a licensed dentist can lead the Board.

Therefore, the Board requests that S.B. No. 52 be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. No. 52.



Re: S.B. 52
Committee: Commerce and Consumer Protection
Date: February 4, 2009
Time: 9:30 am
Room: Conference Room 229
Number of copies needed:

Dear Honorable Senator Baker, Chair and Honorable Senator Ige, Vice Chair,
and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is **opposed to S.B. 52**, which would require that the chair of the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners shall be selected from among the eight practicing dentists.

The Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners consists of EIGHT dentists, TWO dental hygienists, and TWO lay persons. There is, therefore, a two-thirds majority of dentists on the board already. The Chair and Vice Chair are elected by the board members. Having two-thirds majority vote gives the dentists ample power to control who is voted into the chair position. To date, there has never been a chair, who was not a dentist. Currently, Gayle Chang is the first, and only, dental hygienist who was ever voted into the Vice Chair position. To my knowledge, there is no other governing board that carries a requirement that limits which members of a board are eligible to be voted into the chair position. As it is, dental hygiene is the only profession that is governed by another profession. With eight dentists on the board, the dentists maintain enough control. I would like to believe that since the entire board of dental examiners works so closely together, they would have the knowledge and integrity to choose the person who is best qualified person for the position of chair, regardless of professional background.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Brucato-Thomas, RDH, EF, BS, FAADH
President, Hawai'i Dental Hygienists' Association
President-Elect American Academy of Dental Hygiene
First Recipient, ADHA Master Clinician Award 2008
Former Anesthesia Examiner, Western Regional Examining Board