

# JOURNAL

Quarter 1, 2023

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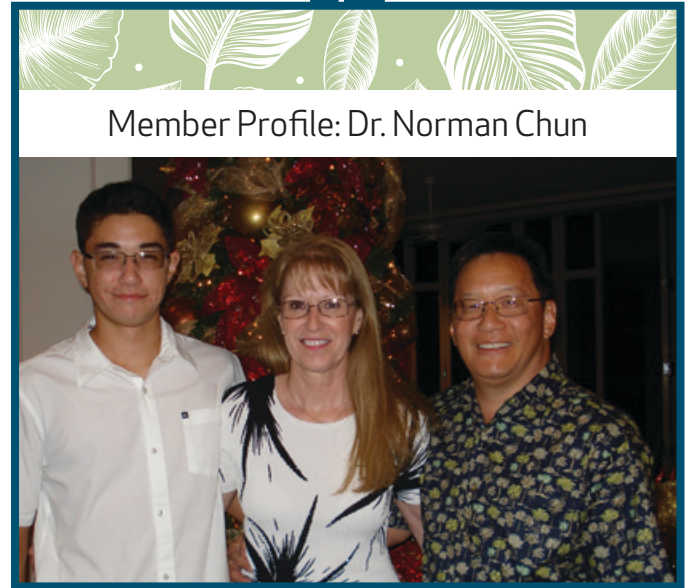
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# TABLE of CONTENTS

**10**



**12**



**14**



**20**



- 5** Letter from the President
- 6** Letter from the Executive Director
- 9** HDA Corner

- 10** Meetings & Conventions
- 12** Member Profile
- 14** Follow Your Foundation

- 16** Volunteer Profile
- 18** Government Affairs
- 20** Risk Management
- 21** County Corner



# Hawaii Dental Association

# JOURNAL

Quarter 1, 2023

## Editor

Vacant

## Contributing Authors

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# LETTER FROM THE 2023 PRESIDENT

By Dr. Norman Chun, HDA 2023 President



HDA President  
**NORMAN CHUN, DMD**

December 31, 2023. Beginning in January 1, 2024 the state CE requirements will revert back to limiting 8 hours by virtual (online) and the remainder to be live in-person lectures. This will be welcomed by HDA and the Dental Education Program for the exciting lectures they are planning for 2024 and 2025.

I want to thank the hard-working HDA central office staff, the countless volunteers that keep the counties and state running and especially our Immediate Past President Dr. Scott Kanamori. Under his watch, he and his team worked through the process of assessing and the eventual sale of the HDA office on Beretania Street. They also found a new office location at the Waterfront Plaza.

We can now move on to tackle a greater issue, **membership**. Membership is the core of any organization and past presidents have always wrestled with this issue. In the last 17 years, there has been a slow decline in new members and renewing members across the country. However, HDA currently is at 75% enrollment (one of the highest in the country) and with 95% renewing members. What this means is once a member joins, he/she is more likely to remain and renew their membership. I can only hope this means they find value in our values of belonging to something bigger than themselves.

The ADA and HDA leadership are constantly aware of the questions of the value to being a member. It is hard to shake the “Good ole boy” reputation of years past that made most of us feel excluded from participating. A few years ago, a vocal group of Honolulu County members moved to remove itself out from under the HDA central office management and bookkeeping. Their frustrations were heard and

2023 is here and getting back to face-to-face meetings has never been more welcomed by me. Whether you used MS Teams or Zoom platforms, you either loved it, hated it, or just tolerated it.

Recently, the Board of Dentistry voted to grant a blanket waiver allowing for acceptance of all continuing education courses through virtual means. This extension will be for the period of January 1, 2022 to

reflective of the fact that maybe things have not changed as much as I thought. HDA’s reputation of exclusiveness still remained. Admittedly, I felt the same way.

This is not the case at all as I found out when I attended several ADA meetings last year in preparation for my term as president of the HDA. A recent visit by our ADA Executive Director, Dr. Raymond Cohlma has put us onto a new path that will be more inclusive to all members and the increased sharing of information to impress on new and old members the VALUE of being an ADA/HDA member.

## What values does our organization provide?

**Advocacy.** We will continue to place dentistry and healthcare in the forefront. We represent you in Congress, in the State Legislature and at the City Councils. Here at home, we literally sift through thousands of bills submitted by the state legislature to find those that will affect dentistry, your patients, your licensing, your practice, and everything that affects running a business. Maintaining and safeguarding our profession stands at the highest priority and no other organization within dentistry can provide this for you.

**Continuing Education.** HDA provides credible and valid courses that fulfill your licensing requirements. This is just a side benefit to what we really do and that is to provide continuous education that will help all of us to provide up to date and exciting new techniques for our patients.

**Networking.** Our profession needs comradery. It needs sharing of ideas. The Association delivers this with our annual convention, county meetings, and occasional social mixers. This is extremely helpful for those that require a venue to meet other members with our profession and specialties. Joining the Association and getting involved will improve your skills and appreciation for the profession you chose.

The Association is composed of all volunteers, so I openly invite everyone without reservations to volunteer and your contributions will be not only welcomed but needed. If you are a new graduate and think you can’t afford the time because you need to work, you need to remember your education did not end when you received your diploma, it marked the beginning.

If I can convince everyone to step out of their comfort zone and put the handpiece and mirror down... I want you to join and volunteer your talents to an organization that has made dentistry a healthy and exciting profession. Do this before your colleagues pass you by.

“If I can convince everyone to step out of their comfort zone and put the handpiece and mirror down... I want you to join and volunteer your talents to an organization that has made dentistry a healthy and exciting profession. Do this before your colleagues pass you by.”



# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Ms. Kim Nguyen, HDA Executive Director



HDA Executive Director  
**KIM NGUYEN, MSW**

## Well into 2023

Barely two months into 2023 and HDA is hopping more than ever. You'll read in more detail about some of our activities but here's a snapshot:

It was exciting and fun to see many of you at our two-day, in person HDA Convention back in January! Our Dental Education Program worked extremely hard to put it together knowing that times have changed. What hasn't changed is the networking and the "catching up" that comes with seeing each other face to face (or mask to mask).

Give Kids a Smile is back! Powered by the Young Dentist Group and hosted by the Hawaii Dental Association Foundation, this energetic community event on February 25 could not have happened without our partner, Waikiki Health Center, the many volunteers who gave of their time that Saturday morning, and our dedicated planning committee.

The State Legislature is in full swing, with both in person and Zoom testimonials. HDA continues to support legislation that promotes and enhances public and patient

safety and oral health, and that improves our profession.

I was just in Chicago for an ADA meeting with fellow state Executive Directors, receiving updates on our digital transformation work, strategic forecasting efforts, and partnership initiatives. A lot of exciting work is upon us!

Please be sure to read emails from HDA as you receive them. We do our best not to spam your emails but we want to keep you apprised of what's going on with important content, such as the state Board of Dentistry's extension of the COVID waiver for this licensing year (2022–23).

2023 has kept us busy even without this added move into our new office space. As you know, moving takes coordination with vendors, deadlines, and property management. Nevertheless, HDA remains open, so please continue to contact us at [hda@hawaiidentalassociation.net](mailto:hda@hawaiidentalassociation.net) with questions.

“ I was just in Chicago for an ADA meeting with fellow state Executive Directors, receiving updates on our digital transformation work, strategic forecasting efforts, and partnership initiatives. A lot of exciting work is upon us! ”



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David C. Ching, D.M.D.  
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# 2023 HDA Meetings

All HDA members welcome at all HDA meetings—RSVPs required

(Dates subject to change; email the HDA office to confirm. [hda@hawaiidentalassociation.net](mailto:hda@hawaiidentalassociation.net))

## Executive Council Meetings by Zoom

Wednesdays: 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

- » April 5 (Tentative)
- » April 26
- » June 21
- » August 9
- » October 25

## Board of Trustees

Thursdays: 8:30 AM to 1 PM

- » May 11 (In Person)
- » July 6 (Zoom)
- » September 21 (In Person)

ADA House of Delegates,  
Saturday–Tuesday,  
October 7–10, 2023, Orlando, FL

HDA House of Delegates,  
Sunday, November 12, 2023,  
Halekulani Hotel



# E Komo Mai!

## New Members

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Judy Chen, DDS      | Helena Mello, DMD     |
| Hien Doan, DDS      | Melissa Ng, DMD       |
| James Fukuroda, DMD | Regina Nguyen, DDS    |
| Patrick Haines, DDS | Alyssa Ochiai, DDS    |
| Megan Huynh, DDS    | Yunsang Park, DDS     |
| Van Anh La, DDS     | Vy-Hang Quach, DDS    |
| Christie Le, DMD    | Mary Quinn, DDS       |
| Evan Kopecky, DDS   | Wendie Schwab, DDS    |
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| Kimberly Mah, DDS   | Sarah Uehara-Yee, DDS |
|                     | Nichele Wada, DDS     |

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# HDAC is Back!

By Dr. Derek Ichimura, HDA Board of Trustees and Convention Member

**A**FTER A HIATUS due to COVID restrictions, the Hawaii Dental Association Convention (HDAC) 2023 was back to its usual format. The convention was held on January 26 and 27, 2023 at the Hawaii Convention Center.

In addition to exhibits featuring dental vendors offering the latest in materials and technology, the meeting featured a diverse selection of distinguished speakers covering topics such as dental photography, dental materials, practice management, ergonomics, dental lasers, removable prosthodontics,

medical emergencies in the dental office and the treatment of dysbiotic biofilms via Guided Biofilm Therapy.

The HDA Dental Education Program (DEP) endeavors to provide our members with programs that are offered at many of the top dental meetings throughout the country without the added expense of travel.

The many smiling faces at this year's convention attest to the importance of our yearly in-person event. The DEP hopes to provide to the members of HDA, a valuable educational and social opportunity at every conference.



We hope to see everyone at future meetings. As always, the DEP values any criticisms, suggestions and compliments from our members. Please do not hesitate to tell the DEP how it can make the convention a better experience for you.



Attendees and colleagues visit with exhibitors and reconnect at our January in-person Convention!





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## MEMBER PROFILE

In this journal, we're happy to introduce our new HDA 2023 President, Dr. Norman Chun!

Getting to Know HDA 2023 President,

# Dr. Norman Chun

By Dr. Candace Wada, HDA Member



Norman Chun, DMD

Dr. Norman Chun grew up in Hawaii. He said, "I was raised by two great parents who taught me to 'give more than you get,' by this, they meant your success is measured by how much you give to your community."

He said, "I knew when I was 12 years old that I wanted to follow my dad into dentistry."

Norm's education took him to the University of San Francisco. After graduation, he was accepted but turned down a scholarship at the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry to instead attend his father's alma mater, University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine. Graduating in 1981, he

returned home and met pediatric dentists, Dr. Dean Sueda and Dr. Lynn Fujimoto, who were a great influence on him. He then decided to do a pediatric residency at The Ohio State University and returned home in 1986 and began his career as the second pediatric dentist in Kailua.

For the last 14 years on the July 4th weekend, his practice hosts the Dr. K.B. Chun and Sons Blood Drive. It started off with the Blood Bank of Hawaii sending one bus, then two and now they insist that they host three buses. As it turns out for that particular weekend, their blood drive collects the most pints in the state.



Dr. Chun with his son Ryan and wife Janet.





The team at Dr. KB Chun & Sons Annual Blood Drive.

Recently, Norm retired from the United States Army as a Colonel in the Dental Corps. He served in both the Hawaii Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserves. During his active-duty status, he was deployed twice to the Middle East. There he learned how truly fortunate he was to be an American and to appreciate the beauty of Hawaii.

Norm has served as president for the Honolulu County Dental Society. He said, “Back then we had monthly meetings and now I will be serving as the president for the Hawaii Dental Association.”

Norm said, “In my 42 years as a dentist there have been massive changes (mostly for the better). Tooth-colored restorations have taken over. We have seen silver amalgam and gold restorations replaced by composite resins and solid porcelain restorations. The speed with which we place these restorations is amazing and they are a lot gentler for our pediatric patients.”

Norm continued by saying, “I have been blessed with a very supportive family and friends to be able to serve the Hawaii Dental Association. Thinking back, I was blessed to have a capable First Sergeant who literally saved my life in Iraq but that is another story for another time.”



Dr. Chun and General Austin at the coin presentation in Iraq.





**SCOTT MORITA,  
DDS, MS**

# Give Kids a Smile Returns with Big Smiles!

*By Dr. Scott Morita, President, Hawaii Dental Association Foundation*

**G**IVE KIDS A SMILE HAWAII (GKAS) returned in full swing to in-person events this February after a two-year hiatus. The program kicked off February 1 with oral hygiene presentations powered by the NYU Langone Hawaii Pediatric Residents and HDA Young Dentist members to hundreds of elementary students primarily in the Kaimuki-McKinley-Roosevelt Complex Area. Kindergarteners, 1st graders, and 2nd graders at six schools received oral hygiene kits with items donated by Patterson Dental and Central Pacific Bank (CPB). On Monday, February 6, with the

largest showing of HDA Foundation board members and GKAS supporters as witnesses, Governor Josh Green signed a proclamation declaring February 2023 Give Kids a Smile Month.

GKAS month culminated in a big event held at Waikiki Health Makahiki Clinic on Saturday, February 25. Dentists, their teams, UH dental hygiene students, Waikiki Health staff, and more oral health advocates volunteered to serve over 60 families in the surrounding community. Free cleanings, screenings, fluoride, and sealants were provided to Hawaii's keiki, and parents and grandparents joined in on the fun through games and interactive



GKAS Co-Chairs Drs. Scott Morita and Jaclyn Palola kick off GKAS with Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke.



oral hygiene and nutrition counseling activities. The event featured special guest appearances from Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, Miss Hawaii Lauren Teruya, and Pow! Wow! Founder Jasper Wong who designed a special mural for Give Kids a Smile that attendees and volunteers colored. KHON covered the event and even aired double shakas by GKAS volunteers at the end of that night's newscast.

GKAS will continue events on Maui towards the end of the year, and plans to start organizing in Hilo are underway. Please save the date for the GKAS Fundraiser Gala on September 30 at the Halekulani hotel!



*Hawaii's keiki learn about oral health and receive dental screenings from dedicated GKAS volunteers.*



# How Do You Volunteer for the HDA and Why?

By Dr. Carla Fukumoto, HDA Secretary



CAMDEN TOKUNAGA, DDS

**I**N THIS JOURNAL, we ask Dr. Camden Tokunaga, Honolulu County President and Member of the Dental Education Program: How do you volunteer for the HDA and why?

“I kickstarted my involvement with the ADA/HDA as a fourth year dental student when I attended ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day in Washington D.C. and lobbied alongside other Hawaii dental students and HDA practicing dentists. Participating in that event was so much fun and I knew I wanted to continue my volunteer efforts as a

practicing dentist, especially since my parents who are both dentists were heavily involved in the HDA as well.

Currently, I am serving as the Honolulu County Dental Society President, Honolulu County Delegate, a member of the Membership Engagement Program, and also involved with the Young Dentist Group. I really enjoy my involvement with the HDA because it not only lets me network with our fellow colleagues, but it also enables me to advocate for our profession.”

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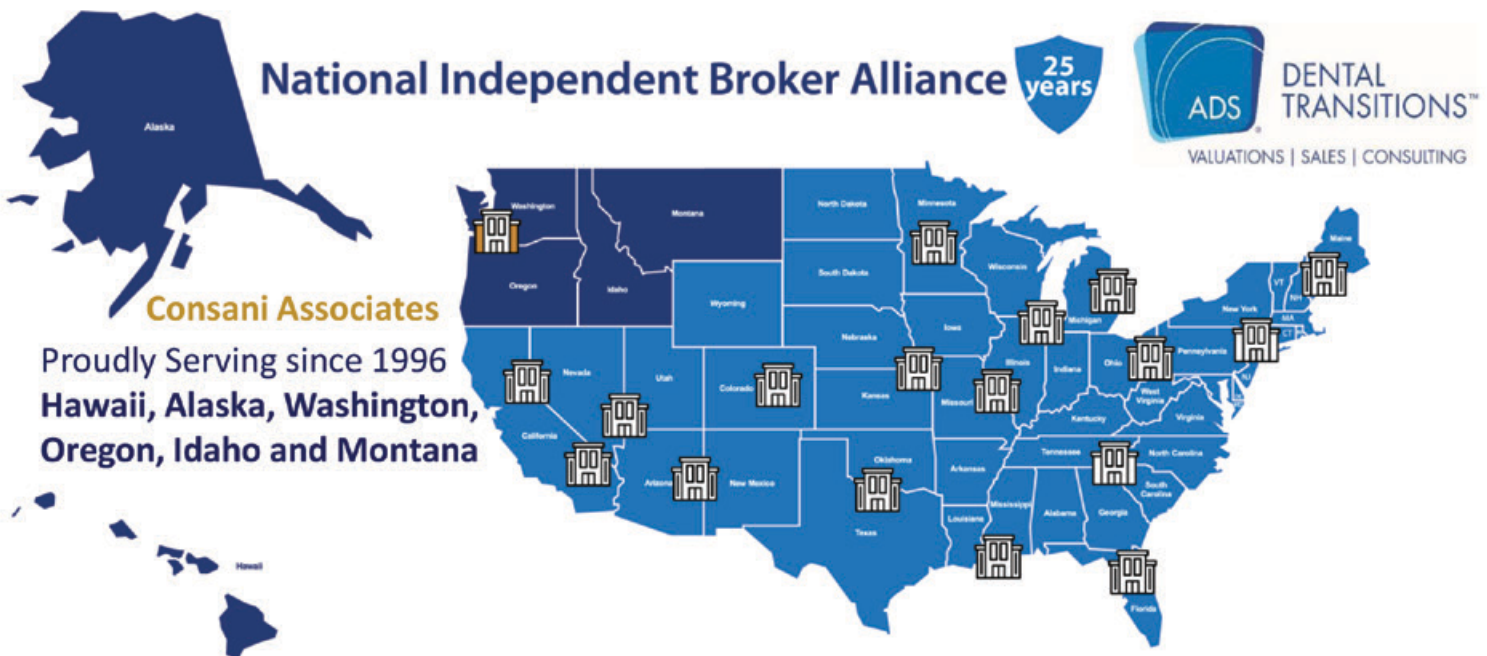
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MELISSA PAVLICEK, J.D.



DANNY CUP CHOY, M.ED

# Where are the Parents and What can Organized Dentistry Do?

By Melissa Pavlicek, J.D., and Danny Cup Choy, M. Ed., HDA Legislative Consultants

**I**N A WIDELY READ 2007 Journal of the American Dental Association report<sup>1</sup>, children's receipt of regular dental care was strongly associated with their parents' history of seeking dental care for themselves. Although Hawaii consistently ranked poorly for children's oral health, the adult dental Medicaid program was cut in 2009 by legislators forced to balance the state budget decimated by the Great Recession.

For the following twelve years, the Hawaii Dental Association and community advocates sought legislative approval to restore those benefits, making the case that the adult benefit would improve overall health, reduce suffering, decrease costly emergency room visits, and, importantly, improve children's oral health. A strong advocate for the benefit's restoration since she was named to lead the Hawaii Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division in 2015, Administrator Judy Mohr Peterson helped lead advocacy efforts to restore the full Medicaid dental benefit program. With the passage of the 2023 budget this past legislative session, Med-QUEST received over \$25 million in total funds to expand services, including the restoration of dental benefits for adults. The benefits include basic preventative services such as teeth cleaning, X-rays, and exams. Basic restoration procedures for chewing functions, fillings, and crowns are also covered.

The benefits became available in January, yet community oral health advocates are already concerned that the program's implementation may take too long to ramp up and that Medicaid-qualified adults will struggle to access

care. Unlike 42 other states, the Hawaii's Department of Health does not have dedicated public dental health staff to assess and monitor the population's oral health status, community needs, and assets; inform and educate people about oral health; mobilize community partners to leverage resources; develop, champion, and implement policies, laws, and plans that support oral health efforts; reduce barriers to care; assure a competent and skilled public and private oral health workforce; and improve public dental health functions through ongoing evaluation and continuous quality improvement. A proposed legislative task force is being considered by legislators in House Bill 617 to address just these issues.<sup>2</sup>

With over 288,000 adults expected to be eligible to access the Medicaid dental benefits, policy-leaders and key leaders of the Hawaii Dental Association have turned their focus to increasing awareness of the program and optimizing capacity at Federally Qualified Health Centers and in private practice dentistry.

Organized dentistry, through the Hawaii Dental Association, is supporting legislators' efforts to establish a task force and seeking to ensure adequate representation in policy-making discussion. Raising awareness and facilitating provider enrollment are other ways HDA seeks to contribute to smooth implementation of the program.

For more information see the state Department of Human Services Med-Quest provider portal: <https://medquest.hawaii.gov/en/archive/providers/ProvidersDental.html>

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<sup>1</sup>CHILDREN MORE LIKELY TO VISIT A DENTIST IF PARENTS DO, STUDY FINDS. Retrieved February 26, 2023, from [https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177\(14\)61517-8/fulltext](https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177(14)61517-8/fulltext)

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure\\_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=617&year=2023](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=617&year=2023)



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# How to Choose a HIPAA Compliant Vendor

By The Compliancy Group



**V**ENDORS YOU CHOOSE to assist your dental practice will have a significant effect on your practice's success. The HIPAA regulation emphasizes the importance of business associate compliance because, ultimately, your vendor's vulnerabilities are your vulnerabilities. What steps do you take to ensure that your business associate vendors are compliant with HIPAA?

### What is a Business Associate?

First, it's important to understand what a business associate is. A HIPAA business associate is any vendor that creates, receives, transmits, or stores protected health information (PHI) for a healthcare organization. Not all vendors are considered business associates, but many are. Common examples of business associates include electronic medical record platforms, online appointment schedulers, email service providers, and electronic payment software.

To ensure HIPAA compliance, you must vet the business associate vendors you choose for your practice.

### What Makes a Vendor HIPAA Compliant?

Many of the requirements you need to meet as a dental practice also apply to business associates. HIPAA business associates must implement safeguards to prevent unauthorized access or disclosure of PHI.

To do so, HIPAA vendors must implement the following:

#### **Access Management**

Controlling who has access to PHI is one of the most important parts of HIPAA compliance. With most PHI stored in an electronic format (ePHI), access management is the best way to do so. Popular methods of access management consist of user authentication, access controls, and audit logs.

#### **Data Security**

Hacking continues to be a major cause for concern across the healthcare sector. The best way to prevent hacking incidents is through end-to-end encryption (E2EE). E2EE prevents unauthorized access to data from transmission to receipt.

#### **Data Backup**

HIPAA requires businesses working with PHI to implement data backup procedures. Data backup consists of establishing and implementing procedures to create and maintain retrievable, exact copies of electronic protected health information (ePHI). Data backup is essential to recover from breaches or natural disasters, as it facilitates business continuity and the upkeep of patient care.

#### **HIPAA Business Associate Agreement**

A vendor cannot be considered HIPAA compliant if they do not sign HIPAA business associate agreements (BAAs). Regardless of how secure a vendor is, if they do not enter into a BAA, practices cannot work with them.

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#### **Contributed by Compliancy Group**

*Need assistance with HIPAA compliance? Compliancy Group can help! Using a simplified software solution and Compliance Coach® guidance, dentists can achieve HIPAA compliance easily. As the only HIPAA solution endorsed by the Hawaii Dental Association, dentists can be confident in their compliance program. Get HIPAA compliant today!*



## Hawaii County Dental Society

By Dr. Lena Hamakawa, President

Happy 2023! Hawaii County ended 2022 with our annual Christmas Party, held at the Hilo Yacht Club. The event was sponsored by Central Pacific Bank. Our first meeting of the year will be held in February. We are looking forward to a great and productive 2023!



## Honolulu County Dental Society

By Dr. Dana Adachi, Secretary

At January's Hawaii Dental Association Convention, the Honolulu County Dental Society (HCDS) officers passed out hydro flasks to its county members. It was great to meet and connect with members and show appreciation for their continued involvement and support.

In February, HCDS had its first meeting of the year, with a lecture from Dr. Dean Sueda on how to manage and care for pediatric patients who present with dental emergencies.

In 2023, HCDS will work to update its bylaws and is looking forward to hosting quarterly continuing education lectures, which include presentations by fellow Hawaii colleagues, Drs. Kenneth Choy and Mike Hironaka.

Stay tuned for more information!



## Maui County Dental Society

By Dr. Emilie Sumida, President

Held our Annual Holiday Party on January 14, 2023 at Da Playground in Maalaea.

Succession of positions were voted on and confirmed:

- President: Emilie Sumida, DDS
- Secretary/treasurer: Catherine Vargas, DDS
- Board of trustees Maui representative: Zach Dodson, DDS

We will be planning monthly meetings for the year.




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