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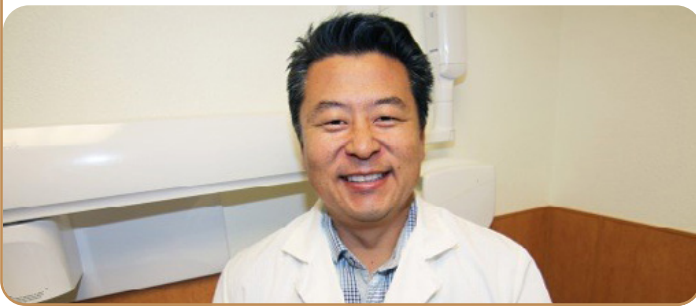
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Hawaii Dental Association JOURNAL

Winter 2020

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HDA President
Wayne Leong, DDS

Letter from the President

I'd like to start things off by wishing everyone a happy and prosperous 2020. I'm looking forward to serving you this year. My predecessors have formed a good base to build from, and we have a collaborative, cohesive group of volunteers to lead our programs, committees, and task forces.

In 2020, we will be trying a new format to make our board meetings more streamlined and focused. Other state dental associations have taken measures to streamline meetings, like using a consent calendar, placing non-controversial topics and resolutions together to be approved all at once, and saving time to discuss more pressing matters. We will be applying this and other concepts to make our meetings more efficient and user friendly. Hopefully, our efforts will also trickle down to other meetings.

The ADA also holds caucuses to hash out issues with various resolutions prior to the actual House of Delegates meeting. Our previous House of Delegates meeting was bogged down with questions from the floor, requiring numerous points of clarification from our Treasurer and Executive Director. Prior to our November House of Delegates, we scheduled a caucus for each county, to review and discuss the reports and resolutions. These caucuses reduced the amount of questions and clarification requests significantly. They improved the flow of the meeting so much that the House adjourned an hour earlier than expected.

We are also looking into issues concerning the future of the HDA building. High maintenance costs have been projected for the near future, and despite the efforts of Sofos and our new property manager, Marcus and Associates, the three available rental units in the building have not been occupied for over a year. Our other revenue streams, that offset the building expenses

in the past, are also declining. We will be printing articles to keep you informed and updated on this process.

The 2020 Hawaii State Legislative session opened on January 15. Our Legislative Program is tracking a number of bills relating to dentistry. In particular, we are opposing HB1806 which establishes the licensure and regulation of dental therapists. We are also opposing SB 2584 which establishes minimum requirements for dental assistants and clarifies the allowable and prohibited practices by dental assistants. We are supporting HB 2100 which establishes the dental assistant task force within the DCCA and requires a report to the legislature. Requests for written testimony, concerning these and other bills, will be sent by the HDA via email. You can submit your own testimony online or, with your approval, the HDA can submit testimony on your behalf. Please look out for these very important emails and respond accordingly.

Over 1,700 people attended our 2020 HDA Convention, including 628 dentists and 409 hygienists. The overall opinions of the event, from participants, speakers, and vendors were very positive. The final results and numbers are still being compiled by our Dental Education Program and will be available in the near future.

The environment around our profession is in constant flux, and new challenges constantly arise. Compliance with ever increasing regulations and requirements can easily overwhelm a dental practice. I would like to close by encouraging more HDA members to participate with our organization, answering surveys, giving testimony, and sharing your opinions, experiences, and expertise with our committees, programs, and task forces. Collectively, we are the HDA. 🦷

“”””

The environment around our profession is in constant flux, and new challenges constantly arise.



HDA Executive Director
Kim Nguyen, MSW

What's Ahead?

Aloha there, HDA Members! 2020 has already proven to be a busy one. We welcome new incoming Board members Drs. Zach Dodson, Paul Guevara, Craig Haruki, and Anthony Kim, who just joined us for our first Board meeting of the year. I'm hopeful about their energies as well as the Strategic Plan Refresh that our Board will undergo in a couple of months, as our current one will end its three year (2018–2020) run this Dec. ADA is assisting us with that—all part of the tripartite relationship.

You may be wondering why we need a Strategic Plan in the first place? Well, it's a framework that informs our decision and policymaking. Think about it as a “treatment plan” for your patients, or a business or marketing plan, for your practice. Rather than being willy-nilly about our work without any metrics or accountability or knowing where to deploy resources effectively, we wouldn't know if any (meaningful) progress is being made towards our mission. And there are several times where we've been asked to do this, or sponsor that ... requests that would have taken us away from our mission work and which are out of our scope.

You may have heard resurrected chatter about our HDA building. The very first point I want to emphasize is that no decisions have been made about its future. What is occurring is research into building numbers to better inform our leadership on such questions and scenarios as ... In its simplest form, what is the breaking point in numbers for the HDA to be comfortable if we stayed? Staying in our building means we must answer the question: what do we need to do to be in the black, given the rental market as it is? What if we moved... where would we go and at what costs? All of these (and more) need to be

discussed thoughtfully, carefully, and methodically, with researched numbers and with viewpoints from various sides. Our building matter is not to be taken lightly, and so our leadership wants to ensure all stones have been unearthed for review and discussions. Read more about this work in this Journal.

By the time you read this Journal, the annual Give Kids a Smile (GKAS) clinic event will have occurred, on Feb 29 (leap year Saturday!). With each year, the GKAS Planning Team continues to build on the event. I am extremely proud of this very hardworking group. Look for an update in the next Journal.

2020 marks the 20th year of our partnership with TDIC. On Jan 22, leaders from the California Dental Association, TDIC, and Jerry Hay enjoyed a trip down memory lane with the HDA Board members. Together, we've provided insurance support to our members so that they can focus on providing the best oral care to their patients. We're looking forward to continuing our journeys together.

If you have questions or are interested in any of the above, come be a part of the work! As I get older, I embody the “no vote, no grumble” philosophy with each passing day.

This also reminds me to remind everyone that, as our work continues to grow to meet the changing demands and the environment, I will ask for your patience. Our team is small but mighty. We continue to do the best we can within the hours we have, to serve our leadership and members. And we will always push out information and calls for action via email blasts, so please—if you have changed your emails or set up an email address, please let us know. In this digital age and when information changes so quickly, we are trying to move away from paper and postal mail. So don't miss out!



Think about it
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as a “treatment
plan” for your
patients, or a
business or
marketing plan,
for your
practice.

To our County members—I know your leadership is planning a series of CE courses and events to support you in your offices. Watch your mailboxes; county leadership is working hard to showcase the value of your membership. And this summer, HDA President Leong and I will be visiting the various county dental societies, so start making your list of questions for us!

So here's wishing all of you, a happy and healthy 2020. Until we chat again! 🦷



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HDA 2020 Leadership



Dr. Patsy Fujimoto
HDA 2020 President-Elect

By Dr. Christopher Lee, 2019 Nominating Committee Chair

The year 2020 has just started and already HDA is off to a bang. The HDA House of Delegates in November 2019 had elected Dr. Norman Chun as our 2020 President-Elect. We were very much looking forward to him joining our roster of officers but unfortunately, Dr. Chun has had to resign this position. Since then, the Nominating Committee has been busily searching for our next 2020 President-Elect. To that end and through a special election process, we would like to congratulate Dr. Patsy Fujimoto, as our 2020 HDA President-Elect! You may remember that she was HDA President twice before, and was recently Hawaii County's President. We are looking forward to her continued leadership. As part of the Nominating Committee, I would encourage you—our HDA members—to get involved, at the county, state, and/or national level. Check with your county presidents about serving on a committee, task force, or even as a delegate to the HDA House. Be a part of what moves HDA forward! 🦷

2020 Upcoming HDA Events

All HDA Members Welcome at All HDA Meetings

Board of Trustees

9am–1pm, Oahu Country Club

Thursdays

February 13

May 7

(8:30am, Viaggio)

July 9

(strategic plan refresh,
extended meeting time)

September 24

Executive Council

6:30–8:30pm, HDA Office

Tuesdays

March 10

April 7

June 9

Aug 11

September 15

December 15

House of Delegates (HOD) & Awards Ceremony

8:30am, Ala Moana Hotel

Sunday, November 15, 2020

HOD Reference Task Force (RTF)

TBD



Conferences & Events

ADA Dentist & Student Lobby Day, April 26–28
Washington, DC

ADA Presidents-Elect Conference, July 20–21, Chicago, IL

ADA Executive Directors Management Conference
July 20–22, Chicago, IL

ADA Conference on Membership, July 23–24, Chicago, IL

Western States Presidents Conference
July 30–August 1, Monterey, CA

ADA 14th District Caucus I, August 28–30, Salt Lake City, UT

ADA New Dentists Conference, October 16–17, Orlando, FL

ADA Annual Session and House of Delegates
October 14–19, Orlando, FL

Hawaii Dental Association Convention, January 21–22, 2021
Hawaii Convention Center, HI

Dates/times subject to change. Please call to confirm attendance. If you would like to add your event, please contact the HDA office.

In Memoriam

Glenn M. Masunaga, DDS

Stephen T. Moriguchi, DDS

E Komo Mai! New Members

Jun L. de los Reyes, DDS

Nebyat Y. Felix, DMD

Paul S. Jackson, DMD

Adam Long, DDS

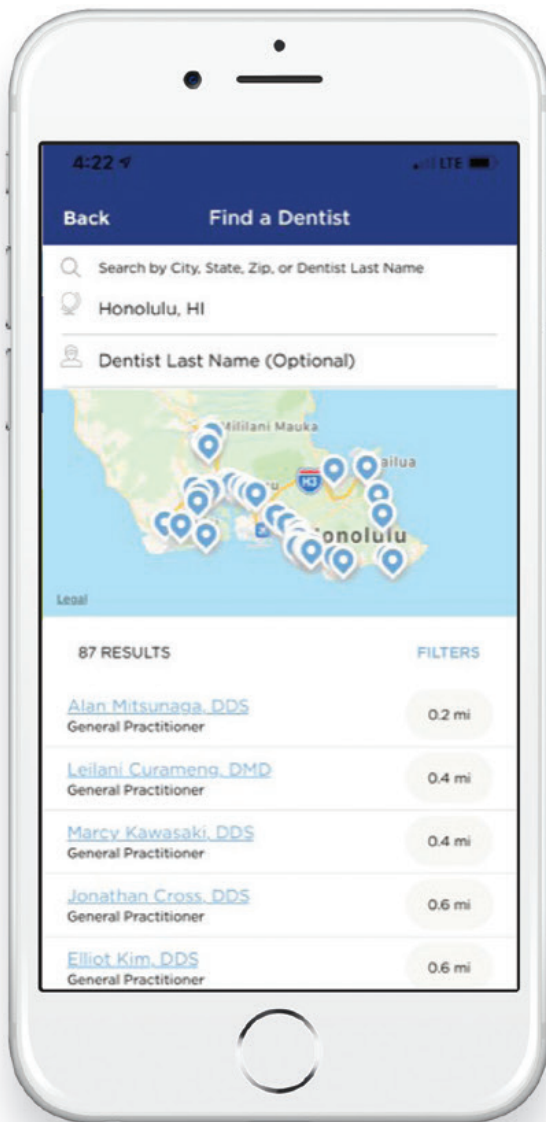
Terry Nguyen, DDS

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HDA Building Update

By Dr. Anthony Kim, Building Task Force Member and HDA Board of Trustee

The Building Task Force was created to assist the HDA Executive Council and Board of Trustees with issues arising from the HDA Building: building budget review, property management company evaluation, leasing concerns, and general maintenance project decisions involving the Building.

At its first meeting in February 2019, the Building Task Force was immediately tasked with evaluating prospective property management companies, as the HDA's long-standing relationship with Sofos Property Management came to an end. Sofos Property Management chose to terminate its relationship with the HDA due to its inability to find long term tenants for the available spaces in the building and making it not economically feasible for Sofos Property Management to continue in its management capacity with the HDA. (The HDA building has 6,619 square feet of rentable space. The HDA office occupies 1,787 square feet of that total.)

The Building Task Force initiated and completed a Request for Proposal process and in April 2019, selected a new property management company, Marcus & Associates, Inc. They immediately renewed the search for tenants and assisted with options for one of our major maintenance issue of dealing with the

building's HVAC system. We have entertained bids for repair, servicing, replacement, and weighed the options for all. Currently, the HVAC system has gone beyond its expected lifespan and the costs for replacement are being analyzed within our overall budget. The HVAC system is currently carrying the air conditioning demand as the only occupant on the third floor is the HDA.

An additional maintenance project is monitoring the building's roof for replacement or immediate repair. The Building Task Force recommended seeking any needed immediate repairs but waiting on a replacement roof until we can budget for it and until the HVAC system replacement decision is finalized.

Over the last few months, prospective tenants have been shown the space and inquired about the rental terms. No prospective tenant has chosen to move forward with a lease agreement and the additional 3rd floor rentable spaces continue to remain vacant (suite #302 with 896 sq. ft.; and suites #304 & #306 with 2,438 sq. ft.). Our only tenant, Hawk Health LLC, occupies space #101 with 1,498 sq. ft.

Throughout the years, the inadequate number of parking spaces and the design of the parking lot, have consistently remained the significant challenge to successfully renting the non-occupied rentable spaces.

Marcus & Associates recommended, and the Building Task Force agreed to a makeover of the 3rd floor entry to brighten elevator landing space, improve tenant access and general flow, and to present an esthetic that was better suited for not only the HDA, but future prospective tenants. The Executive Council approved this cosmetic renovation which included removing the donor wall plaques, hallway door, and painting the entry and hallways adjacent to the space occupied by the HDA. The current state of economics with the lack of tenant occupied space has placed the HDA in the red for its building operations. The cosmetic improvements in addition to favorable lease terms will hopefully help us find tenants to put our building's operating budget back in the black.

If you know of a possible tenant that could occupy any of the above-mentioned spaces, please contact us. We will have Marcus & Associates follow up promptly. They have been a great company to work with and have helped to streamline our decision making regarding the building maintenance projects and tenant vacancy issues.

The Building Task Force is comprised of: Drs. Jason Ako, Robert Baysa, Anthony Kim, Calbert Lum, Dayton Lum, Mendel Sato, and Jeffrey Sonson. 🦷

We Invest in Our Future Dentists Hawaii Dental Service Community Scholarship Awards

In 2018, HDS Foundation established the Hawaii Dental Service Community Scholarship Fund to support local students pursuing a degree in dentistry or dental hygiene. The HDS Foundation awarded a total of \$35,000 in scholarships to the following students:



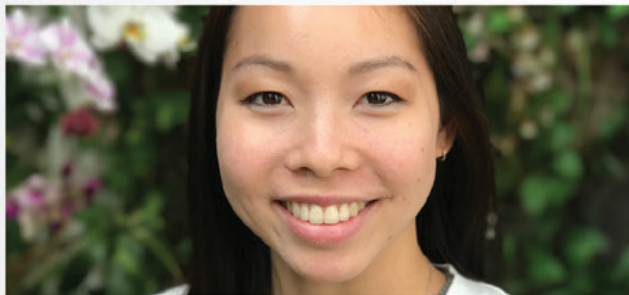
ELSA LIN \$10,000
Graduate 1st Year, Dentistry
University of Washington

“This scholarship will impact my future by lessening the financial burden on my family and me. It also gives me hope that people believe in me to become a dentist that can serve Hawaii’s community in the future.”



MIKA MATSUMOTO \$10,000
Graduate 3rd Year, Dentistry
University of Washington

“This scholarship allows me to further my education in helping underserved patients. I wish to utilize my skills as a dentist to impact the lifestyles of people in my community, especially those who are underprivileged.”



KAITLYN TOM \$10,000
Graduate 4th Year, Dentistry
University of Missouri-Kansas City

“This scholarship provides me with the opportunity to continue pursuing my lifelong dream of becoming a healthcare professional and giving back to the State of Hawaii.”



KIANA MARIE SOLIVEN \$5,000
Undergraduate 1st year, Dental Hygiene
University of Hawaii at Manoa

“As a single mother it stresses me out thinking about how I will pay for school and make a living. This scholarship provides me the opportunity for higher education and helps me achieve my goal to become a dental hygienist.”

HDA Annual Convention 2020

By Dr. Jaclyn Lum, Dental Education Program Chair

“C is for cookie that’s good enough for me.” (Cookie Monster from Sesame Street.) Well, in HDA’s case, “C” is for convention. Like cookies are for Cookie Monster, conventions are good for dentists. Cookie Monster evolved into attempting to promote veggies and did a quick Veggie Monster stint. Perhaps our HDAC (Hawaii Dental Association Convention) will also undergo a change. What would you as HDA members want from our dental education? Our Dental Education Program (DEP) is open to suggestions. Do keep in mind, we

plan out in a year advance. New members are always welcomed to share and plan, too. Fresh ideas help to make for exciting meetings. So do consider how you can play a part in making our annual convention a “cookie/convention that’s good enough for you.”

Getting back to our HDAC 2020: 1,760 attendees welcomed in the 116th annual event on January 23 and 24. 628 dentists with 409 hygienists, and 691 other supporting dental professionals all enjoyed the nine speakers that lectured, with one endodontic workshop, and visited over

120 exhibits. While the bulk of members are Oahu based, we thank the 107 attendees from Hawaii Island, 44 from Kauai, and 43 from Maui who travelled out to the Hawaii Convention Center (HCC) to join us!

While most on Oahu are not surprised by the typical east-bound Hawaii traffic that bottlenecks from Tripler exit to Punahou cut-off on H1, our traffic jam happened on Thursday morning up on the 3rd floor of the HCC by registration. We tried a dentist-only “zipper lane,” but it was still a crawl into the morning classes. No doubt it was a “grin ‘n bear it” situation that will need tweaking. Thank you for holding back on “road rage” and with patience.

Thank you also to our speakers who lectured on varied subjects: from restorative with Dr. John Burgess, Dr. Joel Berg, and Dr. Russell Nishimura; periodontics and implants with Dr. Jon Suzuki; pediatrics and special needs with Dr. Travis Nelson; dental team building with Ms. Amy Kirsch; TMJ and sleep apnea with Dr. Prabu Raman; pathology with Dr. Samson Ng; to opioids and cannabis with Dr. Tom Viola. A hands-on workshop was reintroduced to the event this year on endodontics by Dr. Ralan Wong. Planning has begun for 2021—save the date for Thu–Fri, Jan 21–22! 🦷

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HDA 2020 Convention attendees visit the booths along the concourse.



HDA Vice President Scott Kanamori and Mr. Michael Wilgus from The Dentists Supply Company (TDSC) visit at the 2020 HDA Convention.



HDA Convention Committee Members Drs. Derek Adachi, Jaclyn Lum (Chair), and Rachel Yorita are all smiles.



Drs. Jackie Palola and Brennan Takagi visit with colleague Mr. Eric Knapp from Dental Intelligence/Patterson Dental.

Hawaii Dental Association Foundation 2020 and Beyond

By Dr. Gary Yonemoto, HDA Foundation President

Your Foundation will be celebrating its third year of existence in March 2020. It is hard to believe that the time is passing so quickly. In Foundation years, we are a “young and developing” organization. However, I feel that we have matured a lot over the past 12 months because of all the support the membership has given us and the hard work of the HDAF Board members.

As we begin the next decade, the HDAF board developed goals for 2020. I would like to share these with you.

1. After our November giving cycle, the HDAF granted two more grants totaling \$7,500. It is our goal to increase the grant giving in 2020. To help achieve this, the Board

formalized a Fundraising Committee to help raise donations at every level of giving. Our objective is to become a \$500,000 Foundation that is financially stable.

2. The Foundation is on track for completing the goals of our three-year strategic plan. Discussion is already underway for development of our next three-year strategic plan. We will closely dovetail our plan with the Community goal of the HDA’s strategic plan.
3. The Foundation is also developing a Board Manual to clarify the responsibilities of the Board members, committees, and the HDA Immediate Past President liaison.
4. In November, our Executive Director and I visited with Hawaii County Dental society. Our purpose was to visit all the neighbor islands in 2019. We wanted to foster a sense of ownership of the HDAF by the neighbor island members. Also, we wanted to continue the expansion of the Give Kids a Smile (GKAS) program to all the neighbor islands. Maui had a very successful GKAS event in 2019, and the Board is busy finding ambassadors in Kauai and Hawaii County to initiate GKAS events there as well, and hopefully in 2020.

As you read about in the last Journal, our GKAS fundraising GALA was a tremendous success. Thank you to the Honolulu County Dental Society and the Young Dentists Group for your help and support.

Please consider donating to your Foundation in 2020. The HDAF is the “public face” of the Hawaii Dental Association. We need to continue to grow and mature. 🦷



Thank you to the Honolulu County Dental Society and the Young Dentists Group for your help and support.



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Staff apparel from Lands' End (ada.landsend.com / 1-800-990-5407)—Promote your practice and help build awareness with beautifully logo'd apparel, plus HDA Members always save 10% off products and logo application fees.



Message on-hold from InTouch Practice Communications (intouchdental.com / 1-877-493-9003)—Save \$300 on customized message on-hold programs tailored for your practice.



Luxury Vehicles from Mercedes-Benz (ada.org/Mercedes / 1-866-628-7232)—HDA Members get incentives from \$500 to \$5,500 towards the purchase or lease of a new Mercedes-Benz vehicle.



Interpretation and translation services from CyraCom (cyracom.com/ada / 1-844-737-0781)—Within seconds access certified interpreters in hundreds of languages and pay only 81 cents per minute, a nearly 70% savings, plus no startup costs or minimum fees.



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Amalgam-mercury recovery program from HealthFirst (healthfirst.com/ada / 1-888-963-6787)—HDA Member pricing for systems starts at \$870, a discount of up to 33% off, plus a lifetime warranty and a pollution fine indemnification.

Sharps management from HealthFirst (healthfirst.com/ada / 1-888-963-6787)—Mail-back sharps disposal saves up to 50% versus pick-up services, plus no contracts are required.

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Getting to Know Our New HDA President

Dr. Wayne Leong

By Dr. Candace Wada, HDA Member

Dr. Wayne Leong was born in 1962, in Honolulu, to Richard and Florence Leong. He grew up in Nuuanu with his older brother, Eric and younger sister, Melanie. Wayne attended Cathedral School from grade one through eight, where he played basketball and volleyball, and served as a junior police officer. He attended Saint Louis High School, where he enjoyed playing on the tennis team for four years, and in 1980, graduated third in his class. After graduating from high school, Dr. Walter Ching, a prominent pediatric dentist in Honolulu, encouraged Wayne to pursue a career in dentistry. Growing up building model cars and trucks as a childhood hobby, Wayne enjoyed working with his hands, making dentistry a perfect fit.

Wayne attended his father's alma mater, the University of Notre Dame, earning a Bachelor of Science degree, in Pre-Professional Studies, in 1984. He went on to Indiana University School of Dentistry, graduating with honors in 1988. His best memories during those years were the camaraderie among fellow students to get through the demanding dental school curriculum, and mentoring from Hawaii upperclassmen, especially during the first two years.

During Wayne's last year of dental school, he was aggressively recruited for the US Air Force General Practice Residency Program. After applying and going through the screening process, he was awarded one of the four GPR positions at Travis AFB, California. Once completing his GPR in 1989, Wayne was stationed for one year at Kunsan AB, Korea, where he was able to perform the

dental specialties that he acquired and refined the previous year. He was then stationed at Hickam, AFB, Hawaii. Being back home, he was able to connect with other Air Force officers and childhood friends, where they frequently enjoyed recreational activities like weightlifting, cycling, swimming, racket ball, and scuba diving. He separated from the Air Force in 1993 to pursue a career in civilian practice.

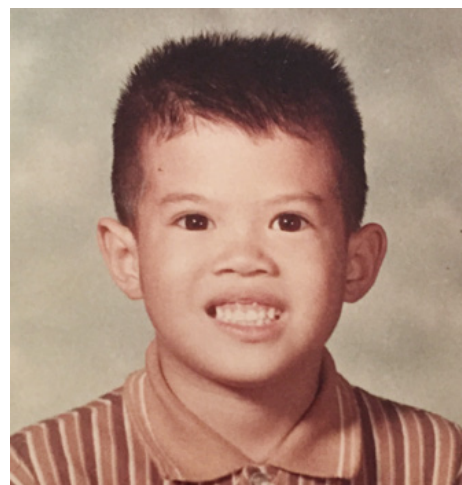
Wayne briefly worked as an associate dentist in Kaneohe. In 1995, he relocated to Hilo to work for Hawaii Family Dental Center. He spent the next six years treating mainly HMO and Quest patients. Wayne also volunteered on the Mobile Care Van from 1997 until it ceased operations in 2008. In 2001, the opportunity came up for him to own his own practice. He officially purchased the practice in 2003, after getting comfortable with the patients and learning how to run the office. Through the years, he has enjoyed the independence of being a solo practitioner.

Wayne took up ballroom dancing in 2002, after losing a bet to a friend at the

gym. He eventually got hooked, becoming an instructor at Big Island Ballroom Dance Club in 2008. It was there that he met his wife, Michelle. He also has a daughter, Taya, and three Shih Tzus, Bella, Squeaky, and Mingsy.

Shortly after relocating to Hilo, Wayne joined the Hawaii County Dental Society, eventually serving as Treasurer, then President. After serving as County President for five years, Wayne joined the HDA Board of Trustees. He served two years as Secretary before accepting the President Elect position in 2019. As the 2020 President, Wayne is hoping to make meetings more streamlined and efficient, take a serious look at options concerning the HDA building, and sponsor CE courses, possibly HIPAA and OSHA updates, for the neighbor island members.

Wayne's advice to the generations of dentists following him: "Always work in the best interest of your patients and learn as much as you can about running a dental business. You never know when the opportunity to own your own practice will come up." 🦷



Dr. Wayne Leong, Then



Dr. Wayne Leong, Now

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Anthony S. Kim, DMD

By Dr. Carla Fukumoto, HDA Secretary

How do you volunteer for the Hawaii Dental Association and why?

I volunteer on the HDA Board of Trustees, the Community and Public Health Program, the Membership Engagement Program, and the Building Task Force. As the Dental Director for the Waimanalo Health Center, I have a passion for serving on the Community and Public Health Program to gain perspective from other members and give input regarding the state of oral health in all populations of Hawaii. The HDA has always worked on my behalf long before I became a practicing dentist here in Hawaii. I volunteer with the HDA to help ensure a healthy environment exists for dentistry in Hawaii. Healthy practices help our community achieve wellness. 🦷



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County Corner

The Honolulu County Dental Society has scheduled more continuing education classes for 2020. We are encouraging our members to join us for fellowship and CE credit!

Upcoming events:

Thu, March 19, 2020: CE on Ethics with UH Law School Professor Ken Lawson

Wed, May 27, 2020: OSHA guidelines with Mr. Alan Yamamoto

Wed, August 26, 2020: Preventing embezzlement (tentative)

Wed, December 2, 2020: HIPAA update with Dr. Andrew Tseu, Hawaii State Department of Health, Chief, Hospital & Community Dental Services Branch

Honolulu County Dental Society will also be hosting a BLS and HIOSH meeting during the summer.

Date and time to be announced.

Stay tuned and watch your mailboxes!

The Maui County Dental Society

Maui County's Give Kids a Smile will be held on Saturday, April 11 at the University of Hawaii, Maui College that will be held in conjunction with Keiki Fest from 11:00am-4:00pm. 🦷

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- Orlando, FL *Disney* AUGUST 31 & SEPTEMBER 1
- Buffalo, NY AUGUST 21 & 22
- Buffalo, NY SEPTEMBER 17 & 18
- Buffalo, NY OCTOBER 23 & 24
- Buffalo, NY (ADVANCED) NOVEMBER 19, 20 & 21

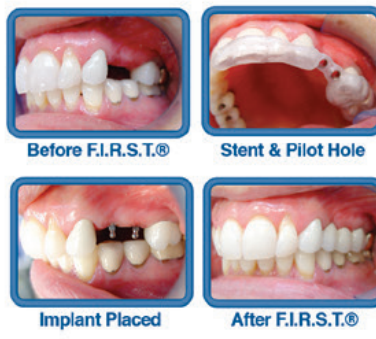
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Melissa Pavicek



Danny Cup Choy

Report from the State Capitol:

The Good, The Bad, and The “Deeply Concerning”

By Ms. Melissa Pavicek and Mr. Danny Cup Choy
Hawaii Public Policy Advocates/HDA Legislative Consultants

The Hawaii legislature introduced more than 2,230 bills in the 2020 session, including favorable bills to promote oral health such as funding for adult dental Medicaid coverage and community water fluoridation. Prior to the start of the legislature, Hawaii Dental Association representatives worked with oral health stakeholders to request a working group on dental assistant regulation. Rep. John Mizuno, chair of the House Health Committee, introduced a bill to establish such a group.

But the news from the state capitol after bills were introduced wasn't all good. The Hawaii Dental Association Legislative Program identified more than two dozen bills, some of which were deeply concerning. For example, a bill to establish dental therapists (House Bill 1806) in Hawaii would have created a new category of oral health professional, not dentists, who could perform irreversible procedures. HDA members, anticipating a legislative hearing on this matter, overwhelmingly responded with opposition. Many called their own geographic-area legislators and the House Health Committee members to express how deeply concerning the bill is.

HDA also opposes efforts to establish regulatory levels for dental assistants without the input of dentists, especially if it requires education that is not currently available through local colleges or accredited distance learning programs.

For example, one proposal would require dental assistants with less than five years of experience to show proof that they had undergone two semesters of education. However, local university programs appear to lack the current capacity to train several hundred or thousands of dental assistants within a short time-frame. HDA has also prioritized monitoring the state Board of Dentistry meetings, sharing information with the Board and seeking to collaborate on educating community leaders about oral health policy.

Hawaii dentists have longstanding, good relationships built on years of trust and respect with many of their elected officials. About two dozen dentists, including members of the HDA Board of Trustees, met with state legislators at HDA's legislative breakfast in January. This annual event is an opportunity for dentists and legislators to discuss oral health policy and develop a deeper understanding of each other's goals and efforts to make Hawaii a better place. 🦷



HDA Leaders and State Legislators visit at our annual legislative reception.

Dental Amalgam Rule FAQs –Oahu

February 2020 City and County of Honolulu Dept of Environmental Services

HDA has compiled the following questions from our Oahu members about the EPA’s Dental Amalgam Rule, and its impact/effect on Oahu dental offices, in consultation with the government sources, referred to as: City and County of Honolulu (CCH) Department of Environmental Services (ENV)—charged with enforcing the Rule. https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-env-menu/site-env-sitearticles/30208-wwm_eq_dentist_amalgam.html CCH Department of Permit and Planning (“DPP”)—charged with issuing building permits. <http://www.honoluludpp.org/Home.aspx>

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – promulgated the Dental Amalgam Rule to reduce discharges of mercury from dental offices into municipal sewage treatment plants known as publicly-owned treatment works (“POTW”). <https://www.epa.gov/eg/dental-effluent-guidelines>

Note: This article applies only to Oahu-based dental offices. Recently received information about the applicability of this Rule on the Neighbor Islands, is forthcoming shortly!

1. I just received a Dental Amalgam Survey in the mail. Am I supposed to fill it out? What is this all about?

Yes. All dental offices on Oahu are required to complete and return the Dental Amalgam Survey (“Survey”). If you have not received it yet, please complete one online at https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-env-menu/site-env-sitearticles/30208-wwm_eq_dentist_amalgam.html

The Survey came from the ENV who reviews your responses and determines if your office does or does not need to install an amalgam separator. ENV is



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the Control Authority for CCH's POTW and is responsible for ensuring that dental offices discharging to City sewers comply with EPA's Dental Amalgam Rule.

2. Do all Dentists need to complete this form? A dentist colleague of mine received the survey but I didn't. Am I going to get one?

All dental offices (not dentists) are required to complete and return the Survey. The Rule applies to dental offices, including large institutions such as dental schools and clinics, where dentistry is practiced that discharge to a POTW. If there are more multiple dentists in one office, the owner of that dental office is responsible for completing and returning the Survey. If there are several dentists in an office who have separate plumbing systems, they must each submit a form and acquire their own amalgam separator.

See answer to FAQ#1 for a link to the survey form.

3. I heard there were exemptions being made? Can you tell me more?

Yes, it is true that EPA exempts certain specialty practices from this rule such as: oral pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, periodontics or prosthodontics. This means they exclusively practice under these specialty practices and do not conduct any other procedures outside of these practices. For example, an Orthodontist cannot be practicing General Dentistry and claim they are exempt as an Orthodontist.

Upon ENV's determination, a dental discharger that does not place or remove dental amalgam except in limited circumstances is also exempt from the Rule. Dental dischargers that meet this criteria are still required to complete the Survey and must fill out Section E which is the "One-Time Compliance Report for Non-Dental Amalgam Discharger."

4. I heard that I need a building permit and a plumber to install a separator? Is that true and necessary?

Dental dischargers subject to the rule are required to install an amalgam separator. In order to install this device, you

will need to obtain a building permit from DPP. That includes submitting a building permit application and plans. You can find instructions on the building permit at the DPP's website <http://www.honolulu.dpp.org/Home.aspx>

DPP will review your building permit application and plans and will determine if a licensed plumber is needed to install the separator. Not all dental offices – by nature of their design – will require a licensed plumber.

5. I don't place and I don't remove amalgam. Does this still apply to me?

If you do not practice in any of the specialty practices mentioned in FAQ#3 and you do not place and





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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

remove amalgam except in limited circumstances, you still have to complete and turn in the Survey and answer the questions that apply to you including Section E which is the “One-Time Compliance Report for Non-Dental Amalgam Discharger.” All dental offices on Oahu MUST complete and submit the Survey.

6. I heard about this Rule earlier, so I bought a separator, and have already installed it. What do I do now?

This rule was actually introduced in 2017. You’d still need to complete the Survey and may need to submit building plans to the DPP for a building permit—even if you recently installed a separator. (It will be a slightly reverse process.) You can find instructions on the building permit at the DPP’s website <http://www.honoluludpp.org/Home.aspx>

Dental dischargers (under any ownership) that were discharging to the CCH sewers prior to July 14, 2017 (“existing sources”) must be in compliance by July 14, 2020 and submit a “One-Time Compliance Report” by October 12, 2020. Here is a link to the “One-Time Compliance Report”: http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/env/wwm_docs/Amalgam_One-Time_Compliance_Report.pdf

7. When did this all come about, and is it law yet?

Yes, EPA issued this rule in July 2017 and ENV is required to implement and enforce this rule to all dental offices discharging to CCH’s wastewater system.

Dental dischargers (under any ownership) that were discharging to the CCH

sewers prior to July 14, 2017 (“existing sources”) must be in compliance by July 14, 2020 and submit a “One-Time Compliance Report” by October 12, 2020. Here is a link to the “One-Time Compliance Report”: http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/env/wwm_docs/Amalgam_One-Time_Compliance_Report.pdf

All new dental dischargers who discharge to CCH sewers after July 14, 2017 (“new sources”) must be in compliance with the rule immediately and submit a “One-Time Compliance Report” certifying their compliance within 90 days after first discharge to CCH.

ENV has the legal authority to enforce on dental dischargers that do not comply to the rule by these deadlines.

You can find EPA’s FAQs on the Dental Amalgam Rule on this link: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-12/documents/dental-office-category_frequent-questions_nov-2017.pdf

8. What happens after July 2020?

Those who are not in compliance with the EPA’s Amalgam Rule are subject to enforcement action by the ENV. If you haven’t started this process, please see ENV’s website on Dental Amalgam Rules: http://www.honolulu.gov/cms-env-menu/site-env-sitearticles/30208-wwm_eq_dentist_amalgam.html

9. Where can I go for more information? Who can I talk to?

The ENV website has more information https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-env-menu/site-env-sitearticles/30208-wwm_eq_dentist_amalgam.html. You can also contact Ms. Lisa Kim Seu

from ENV with specific questions at lkimseu@honolulu.gov, 808-768-3272.

For building permit questions, contact DPP at <http://www.honoluludpp.org/Home.aspx>, 808-768-8000. See additional attachment from DPP.

10. What else do I need to know?

Even though the EPA issued this federal Rule, state and local governments can place higher standards. The EPA Rule itself is a “floor” (base) while state and local governments can set the “ceiling”.

This Rule is designed to protect the water systems. We recognize that our members are good stewards of the environment. We also recognize this can be an inconvenience. We recommend that you contact the ENV and DPP with specific questions. 🦷

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EPA's New Dental Amalgam Rule

City and County of Honolulu Dept of Permit and Planning

Amalgam Separator Plans Guidelines – Oahu based dental offices:

- Building Permit for plumbing work is required for the installation of amalgam separators.
- Go to <http://www.honoluludpp.org/> for information on obtaining a building permit.
 - ▶ On the above website, click “Building Permit Instructions” in the blue shaded area on the left. This link provides the steps to obtain a Building Permit for plumbing work.
 - ▶ Select “Submit a Permit Application” to begin. For questions call 808-768-8220.
 - ▶ A mechanical engineer’s seal is not needed if the total cost of the work involved (materials and labor) is less than \$40,000 for work in one-storied buildings or if the work is less than \$35,000 for work in multi-storied buildings.
 - ▶ Drawings may also be submitted electronically via the ePlans link (<http://www.honoluludpp.org/OnlineServices.aspx>) on the left side of the webpage.
- Drawings format for the permit application must comply with the Building Permit plan format checklist found on the above website.
- Plumbing drawings showing the amalgam separator installation must include:
 - ▶ Overall layout of the dentist office showing the location of the amalgam separator.
 - ▶ Location of all the dental chairs discharging to the amalgam separator.
 - ▶ Piping or tubing from the dental chairs leading up to the amalgam separator, then from the amalgam separator to the vacuum pump.
 - ▶ Discharge piping from the vacuum pump to an indirect waste receptor (usually a floor sink).
 - ▶ Clear distinction between existing piping/tubing and what is proposed along with clearly identified points of connections.
 - ▶ Sizes and material of the pipes or tubing.
 - ▶ Make, model, size/capacity of the amalgam separator.
- Drawings may be developed by anyone (see list below), except when a mechanical engineer’s seal is required.
 - ▶ Mechanical Engineer or Mechanical Designer
 - ▶ Plumbing Contractor
 - ▶ Owner or Applicant
 - ▶ Any other construction drawing professional (Architect, Engineer, Designer)
- Most amalgam separator installations will not require a licensed plumbing contractor. Determination will be made by Dept. of Planning and Permitting during the permit application review process.
- See also Dept. of Environmental Services amalgam rules <http://www.honolulu.gov/env.html>.

Keeping Office Payments Safe and Secure

By The Dentists Insurance Company (TDIC) Risk Management

From facial recognition software to personal identification numbers, countless protections are in place to safeguard our private financial data. In the dental office, data encryption, anti-virus software and firewalls are the go-to preventative measures, not to mention the classic lock-and-key methods for securing hardware and other items of value.

Unfortunately, smart thieves can, and have, found ways to outwit many of the most advanced security systems. In one case reported to The Dentists Insurance Company's Risk Management Advice Line, a thief broke into a dental office and made off with the credit card terminal, resulting in \$11,000 in charges from the dentist's account.

The dentist became aware of the theft after finding his glass office door broken. Upon reviewing the video footage, he witnessed the suspect, who was wearing a bandana, enter the office and take the credit card terminal. The entire incident took less than 60 seconds. The dentist reported the incident to his bank.

The bank initially refunded the money, but then the dentist received a letter from the bank stating that the bank wanted the money back. Apparently, the criminal used the terminal to post credits from the dentist's merchant account to prepaid credit cards. The credits were small, ranging from \$300 to \$400 each, totaling \$11,000. The prepaid credit card company also demanded repayment. Luckily, the dentist had reported the machine as stolen and the charges were made after it was taken from his office.

Credit card processors will typically refund fraudulent charges to a victim's account as long as the victim reports the crime immediately and follows the protocols laid out in their contracts. This usually requires the merchant to report the loss to the bank and police as soon as they are made aware of it.

Basic security measures, such as video cameras, motion sensors, and alarms, can thwart most criminals. To keep your credit card terminals safe, TDIC recommends taking the following additional precautions:

- Lock the terminal away in a locked cabinet or drawer at the end of each day.
- Take the terminal home with you at the end of each day.
- Password protect your terminal, particularly for any refund functions.
- Upgrade your terminal to a self-disabling device, which requires the initial setup to be conducted if the terminal loses power. This also requires the issuing bank to be contacted in order to have your merchant number reassigned to the unit.

Dental practices may also want to consider alternative methods of accepting credit card payments. For example, mobile card readers, such as Square, plug directly into your smartphone or tablet and transfer data via an app. Virtual card readers operate similarly, connecting to a computer and processing transactions through a web-based platform.

While credit cards remain the gold standard in merchant payments, peer-to-peer payments are grabbing a stronghold as well. These payment methods, which

include companies such as Venmo, PayPal, and Zelle, allow users to transfer funds directly from bank accounts or credit cards to merchants.

On-demand payments are certainly becoming the norm, as transactions can be made within seconds from any smartphone. While accepting such payments is convenient for patients, there are some considerations for dental offices, including fees and processing times. In addition, not all of them offer the same level of fraud protection and conflict resolution services offered by credit card companies.

One of the biggest concerns for dental practices with regard to peer-to-peer payments is privacy. Depending on the provider, transactions can be open to the public; in fact, some, including Venmo, allow users to connect with "friends" and allow transactions to be viewable to everyone in the network. Privacy settings can override this function, but it is up to the user to change their settings. And while financial data is encrypted on most peer-to-peer apps and servers, user identity isn't, which can open the door to liability claims stemming from potential HIPAA violations.

Every dental practice owner wants to make the payment process as fast and convenient as possible. But with convenience often comes risk. Taking a few steps to ensure the security of financial data can help mitigate those risks. Using security technology, following basic security best practices, and offering alternative payment methods can protect your patients and your practice from fraud and theft. 🦷

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