

1 Report of the HDA Executive Director – 2021-H

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3 2021 has been both a recovery year as well as an opportunity for a fresh start, if you will. The
4 year began with HDA’s active involvement with the counties and state to roll out the COVID-
5 19 vaccine for our members. As 2021 went on, we saw how returning to work will now look
6 post-COVID, and how these measures are most likely here to stay. We continued to await,
7 monitor, review, recite, and activate on constantly changing and oftentimes confusing
8 governmental orders that impact how our members practice and play, and how internally,
9 HDA had to transition back and forth from virtual work to some in-person work, back to
10 virtual, back to some in-person, and so on and so on. We organized several PPE distributions
11 events in all four counties, never once imagining that HDA would play “Amazon fulfillment
12 center.” But we all learn something or a new skill, every day!

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14 All of this while other more common, traditional work continued – supporting our members
15 with daily practice questions, offering CE courses to ensure a smooth licensing period,
16 pushing out HDA initiatives that speak of member value and engagement, and responding to
17 public and patient inquiries about oral health care. Somewhere in there, the HDA leadership
18 refreshed our Strategic Plan for 2022-24 which lays out great opportunities for the HDA,
19 while keeping our core priorities intact (Membership, Community, and Advocacy). Thank you
20 to our ADA Client Services Department for leading that strategic planning work – not just
21 with HDA but also for the Honolulu County Dental Society and the HDA Foundation. A great
22 example of the tripartite family.

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24 Like all of our members, the HDA itself has been tested in terms of energy, strength, and
25 resilience. It takes a village to run the HDA. I wish to send a special shout out to President Dr.
26 Patsy Fujimoto, President-Elect Dr. Scott Kanamori, and Vice-President Dr. Anthony Kim for
27 serving on the HDA COVID-19 Rapid Response Team (RRT) – which entailed many
28 countless hours and last-minute meetings, to discuss and execute immediate and behind the
29 scenes decisions on behalf of our membership. My thanks to our legislative consultant Hawaii
30 Public Policy Advocates for the additional support to navigate government regulations, and to
31 our staff Ms. Antonia Perez and Ms. Rachelle Teruya for maintaining strong and
32 individualized customer service. And my sincerest appreciation to our leadership and
33 membership, for your patience and constant focus to delivering optimal oral care in a post-
34 COVID world.

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36 Let’s look forward to reconnecting in-person in 2022!

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39 Respectively Submitted,

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42 Kim Nguyen, MSW
43 Executive Director