

Report of the HDA Executive Director – 2022-H

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3 As we end 2022 and are still coming out of COVID, I’ve come to realize that 2020 was the
4 year of COVID, 2021 was the year of the vaccines, and 2022 is really the “a-ha year” for
5 HDA. We saw 2022 as a combination of the return to in-person events (which come with
6 their own challenges such as workforce shortages) and of utilizing technology to its max.
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8 On top of that, we closed a significant chapter on our building with a sale and move to more
9 modern work models. The building represented a vision of its time, a structure to house and
10 host our Mission, and a gathering place to network. As time moved on, we realized we
11 needed a different work setting and here we are today, utilizing technology to accomplish our
12 work no matter where we are (physically). But what hasn’t changed, are the memories that
13 made the building possible, the hard work to visualize the Mission over the years, and the
14 desire among all members to do what’s best for the HDA.
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16 We resumed many in-person events, which have always required advanced planning and
17 resources, but much more so in the post-COVID world, and yet still hosting many via Zoom.
18 We all know that while Zoom gets the work done, even the best virtual meeting platform
19 cannot replace the in-person touches – as evidenced by the sold out HDA Foundation’s
20 GALA and the two Young Dentist Group events that quickly maxed out.
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22 We now enter a new phase for the HDA where although our Mission remains the same and
23 constant, how we deliver our work must evolve. Although we continue to enjoy the “Ohana”
24 spirit of our member numbers, the nationwide trend of increasing retiring members and fewer
25 young members will no doubt impact Hawaii. The cost of living and cost of doing business
26 here in paradise, have skyrocketed post-COVID and which make it that much harder for our
27 younger members to practice here and to start their families, and for our senior members to
28 retain their practice (a good number have chosen to retire early). While CE credits are still
29 required for licensure, receiving CE credits now come in the form of Zoom webinars in
30 addition to in-person and self-studies, which challenge our Dental Education Program and
31 leadership to host our annual sessions in formats that are modern and relevant to all cohorts.
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33 No one has all the answers but we must be up to the challenge because we *have* to be – the
34 world is changing, and no doubt we must change with it. Organizations, coalitions, and any
35 living breathing entity are organisms – and organisms must evolve and adapt. We must do so
36 through our own input, strategies, and systems, rather than being told to do so. Let’s rise to
37 the challenge, determine our paths forward, and advocate for our future.
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39 I am looking forward to seeing what 2023 will bring for organized dentistry – at the ADA
40 level with new services for members and a much more modern membership platform, at the
41 state level where our Mission remains the same but our delivery is updated, and at the local
42 level where the grassroots relationships happen.
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44 My thanks go out to the Board and the many programs and committees that carry out our
45 Mission, but I especially want to send a *special shout-out to President Dr. Scott Kanamori!*
46 Not only does he hold the record for the most special meetings during his presidential term

47 but more importantly, he led the HDA through difficult but strategic discussions and decisions
48 with calm, patience, and balanced understanding – all while managing more than a full-time
49 practice, traveling for the HDA, and caring for his family. I am glad that he will be able to
50 enjoy some down time post his Presidency (I’m sure he is looking forward to receiving fewer
51 emails and texts from me!)

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53 Also, the absolute craziness of 2022 could not have been managed and juggled well without
54 my two dedicated staff, Ms. Toni Perez and Ms. Rachelle Teruya. They have survived my
55 many, many requests to take on non-traditional tasks in addition to their daily work of caring
56 for our members as 2022 has really challenged our bandwidth and infrastructure. They are
57 responsible for all of our behind-the-scenes details that are generally invisible to others but
58 that must occur to execute the HDA work.

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60 I hope everyone will end the year with cherished memories, and return well-rested for 2023!

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63 Respectively Submitted,

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66 Kim Nguyen, MSW

67 Executive Director