

1 Report of the HDA Legislative Program – 2023

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3 **Strategic Plan Goal #3 – Government Affairs:** To be recognized as the leading
4 advocate for dentistry, oral health of the public, and strong public health policy.

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6 **Priorities:**

7 Building the capacity of the Hawaii Dental Association to deliver consistent and
8 persistent legislative advocacy was a key priority for 2023. This translated into expanding
9 the number of volunteers trained as spokespersons for media and legislative testimony, as
10 well as a sustained effort to introduce new legislators to HDA and its focus on patient
11 safety and overall oral health. Promoting oral health, enhancing policymaker awareness
12 about oral health, and improving the salience of oral health issues are all key strategies to
13 position the Hawaii Dental Association the experts in dentistry and in improving the oral
14 health of the people of Hawaii. The Program members sought to ensure that the
15 profession of dentistry is protected and its reputation is maintained at the highest levels
16 among key decision makers and the people of Hawaii, through strong public policy
17 advocacy. Finally, it was a key priority of the Legislative Program to support and
18 promote the implementation of the state’s Adult Dental Medicaid program.

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20 **Activities/Goals:**

21 With sixteen new House members and six new state Senators in 2023, HDA had a unique
22 challenge in introducing so many new policymakers to priorities including advocating for
23 the smooth implementation of the Adult Dental Medicaid program, promoting tobacco
24 cessation, highlighting the importance of community water fluoridation, and supporting
25 initiatives of the Hawaii Oral Health Coalition to allow Canadian-trained dentists to
26 practice in Hawaii community health settings. Working with its consultants Hawaii
27 Public Policy Advocates, LLC, HDA conducted media and spokesperson training so that
28 they could more effectively advocate with policy leaders including legislators, committee
29 chairs, legislative leaders, and allied organization leaders. HPPA continued to serve as
30 HDA’s lobbying voice, coordinating lobbying meetings, preparing and presenting
31 testimony, helping research and draft legislation and responses to legislator requests,
32 promoting HDA as the state’s preeminent voice on oral health.

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34 Key state issues of focus include telehealth, licensure, remote continuing education,
35 regulation of dentistry, dental hygiene, proposals to create a legislative oral health task
36 force, and tobacco cessation, all of which require monitoring and robust advocacy efforts.

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38 Program members: Co-Chairs Drs. Norm Chun and Glenn Okihiro; Drs. Ed Cassella,
39 Lynn Fujimoto, Patsy Fujimoto, Carla Fukumoto, Sean Holliday, Lili Horton, Scott
40 Kanamori, Anthony Kim, Chris Lee, Wayne Leong, Dayton Lum, Neil Nunokawa, Curt
41 Shimizu, Darrell Teruya, Steve Wilhite, and Gary Yonemoto; with Hawaii Public Policy
42 Advocates, LLC (lobbyist).

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45 Respectfully Submitted,
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48 Norman Chun, DMD

49 Glenn Okihiro, DDS

50 Co-Chairs

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53 **Recommendation of the HOD Reference Task Force on the Report of the HDA**

54 **Legislative Program:**

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57 **Action taken by the House:**