

Report of the HDPAC – 2023

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

Priorities:

The Hawaii Dental Association’s status as a trade organization precludes its ability to make campaign contributions or engage in political activity. A separate political action committee with its own officers was established and is completely independent of the HDA. This report is advisory only.

Activities/Goals:

- This is the first year that political fundraisers were banned by state law for elected officials during the legislative session which ran from January until May 4. As a result, numerous fundraiser events are being held throughout the summer and fall.
- Although 2023 is not an election year, the Political Action Committee’s campaign contributions will be counted toward limits of donations for the 2024 elections. The most recent compliance filing deadline for federal, state and local Hawaii candidates was on July 31. The HDA PAC relies on its consultants at Accumulus to submit these reports and we have confirmed with our advocates at Hawaii Public Policy Advocates that the state has posted the reports.
- In 2024, half of the state Senate and all of the state House will be up for re-election. Some of the elected officials who have been extremely supportive of organized dentistry's advocacy agenda, e.g. Sen. Karl Rhoads, will not have to run for re-election until 2026. The Senate had a recent resignation with Senator Gil Keith Agaran from Maui stepping down after announcing that his law firm will represent victims of the Lahaina wildfires.
- No changes are anticipated in state legislative leadership or committee chairmanship, but as the legislative session approaches (January 2024), there is anticipated to be intensive focus on a predicted state budget shortfall and the impact to the state budget of the wildfire relief. What this means for the HDA PAC is that we may see more political leaders seeking non-budgetary issues to address in their campaigns. It is an opportunity for the HDA PAC to reach out to the candidates following the 2024 session as they prepare for the 2024 elections and highlight oral health policy initiatives.
- The Hawaii Congressional delegation remains stable with Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono advocating strongly for federal relief funds for the state. Congressman Ed Case was most recently joined by Jill Tokuda, a longtime friend of Hawaii Dental Association during her tenure in the state legislature, rounding out the delegation.

46 Respectfully Submitted,

47

48

49 Norman Chun, DMD

50 Glenn Okihiro, DDS

51 Co-Chairs

52

53

54 **Recommendation of the HOD Reference Task Force on the Report of the HDPAC:**

55 The HOD Reference Task Force recommends the Report of the HDPAC be accepted.

56

57

58 **Action taken by the House:**