

Report of the HDA President's – 2021-H

1
2
3
4 The year 2021 could only be described as a roller coaster of emotions and activities. The year
5 began with the promise of ending the COVID pandemic with the rollout of vaccines. Fortunately,
6 the state government gave priority status to dentists and their staff but the actual logistics were
7 chaotic. Working with the various county's Department of Health staff, the HDA manages to
8 navigate a system of sorts for our members to be vaccinated in a timely manner. The leadership
9 believed that the vaccines were "the light at the end of the tunnel" for the pandemic.

10
11 So much for optimism! We find ourselves still in Zoom mode. The Delta variant skyrocketed
12 positivity rates on all the islands and we find ourselves hunkered down once again. However, lest
13 we think that all is lost there were some positive things within the HDA that have emerged.

14
15 Members continued to renew their membership despite the financial hardships that accompanied
16 the pandemic and the new streamlined dues structure. I would like to believe that the ADA and
17 HDA proved their value with timely information during the pandemic.

18
19 The Board of Trustees completed the delayed strategic planning session in July. I believe that it
20 was a thoughtful and positive session with great organizational ideas that will need to be worked
21 on in 2022. Those who know me know I am an absolute believer in the strategic planning
22 process as the way to move the Association forward.

23
24 Like the state of the state, nation and the world, finances were of critical concern. I brought
25 together those programs most intimately involved with the finances of the Association-Finance,
26 Endorsement, Membership Engagement, Dental Education, Building-to meet several times
27 during the year to monitor our financial status. I believe we had many fruitful conversations and
28 kept the HDA finances on track.

29
30 The Hawaii State Legislature was all about COVID and finances this year. This meant that much
31 of the dental legislation was placed on the back burner as the legislators struggled with the
32 financial shortfall faced by the State. This made for a relatively quiet session.

33
34 The infection rate for COVID in the dental setting remained low. In a study published by the
35 ADA Science and Research Institute and the Health Policy Institute, the infection rate for
36 dentists from June to November of 2020 was 2.6%. In contrast, frontline health care workers had
37 an infection rate of 29%. Guidance from the ADA and the vigilance of our members kept and
38 continue to keep dental offices and our patients safe.

39
40 However, challenges still remain. We must always be vigilant in recruiting and retaining our
41 members. We need to show that ADA and HDA membership has a value proposition second to
42 none. The HDA financial auditors found our Association to be financially sound. One of the
43 issues impacting our finances is the status of the building. I have asked the BOT and the Building
44 Program to do a comprehensive review of the options in resolving this issue.

46 If we accomplished anything this year, it was due to the support of the HDA staff, Executive
47 Director Ms. Kim Nguyen, Projects Coordinator Ms. Rachele Teruya, and Membership Services
48 Manager Ms. Toni Perez. The program chairs and the many volunteers that were members of
49 these programs were also instrumental in moving the HDA forward. Our Board stepped up and
50 completed our strategic plan to guide the Association for the next three years. It takes more than
51 one person to guide the HDA-I am grateful to have so much support.

52
53 I leave the HDA in good hands-Dr. Scott Kanamori your new HDA president and Dr. Anthony
54 Kim our Vice-President. I ask that you as the HOD and all the members support them as they
55 lead us in the next year.

56
57 Finally, I wish to thank the HDA and its members for the privilege of serving as your President.
58 It was never boring, sometimes frustrating but always rewarding.

59
60
61 Respectfully Submitted,

62
63
64 Patsy Fujimoto, DDS
65 2021 HDA President