

## Report of the HDA Legislative Program – 2020

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3 **Strategic Plan Goal #3 – Advocacy:** Effectively ensure that the profession of dentistry  
4 is protected and maintained at the highest regard, among key decision makers and the  
5 people of Hawaii, through strong public policy and advocacy efforts.  
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7 The Hawaii Dental Association kicked off the 2020 legislative session with a Legislative  
8 Breakfast on January 8<sup>th</sup>. More than 20 elected officials and HDA members visited with  
9 each other in a “Talk Story” format. It was a time for everyone to learn about oral health  
10 priorities in an informal environment before session kicked off on January 15<sup>th</sup>.  
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12 The first week of legislative session saw over 2,000 additional bills introduced from the  
13 House and Senate, complementing the bills carried over from the first year of the  
14 legislative biennium. Bills pertaining to the regulation of dental assistants were  
15 introduced in two formats: regulations to be inserted into statute which HDA opposed,  
16 and a task force to be convened to set regulations which HDA supported. Neither version  
17 passed and only 82 (compared with a typical year of more than 250) bills passed in 2020.  
18 A bill to allow for dental therapists was introduced but did not advance. HDA supported  
19 initiatives for fluoridated water, to limit tobacco use and vaping, and to promote adult  
20 dental Medical coverage, all of which failed given the shortened and abbreviated  
21 legislative session due to COVID-19. HDA submitted testimony to the state legislature  
22 23 times on 14 bills and more than 75 unique HDA members submitted testimony in  
23 support of HDA positions.  
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25 Legislators and the media were invited to the annual “Give Kids a Smile” Oahu free  
26 dental clinic held in February, though neighbor island activity was curtailed due to  
27 COVID-19. A Honolulu City Council resolution was adopted recognizing the “Give  
28 Kids” volunteers and commending their community service.  
29

30 The Legislative Program Committee leaders actively engaged state and local officials  
31 regarding the authorization to conduct business and adherence to federal definitions of  
32 essential healthcare workers. The Board of Dentistry held its first meeting of the year on  
33 January 27<sup>th</sup>, but the meeting schedule was disrupted due to the pandemic, resulting in the  
34 April, May, and July meetings being cancelled. The Board met via Zoom on September  
35 3<sup>rd</sup> and primarily discussed licensing mechanisms, as impacted by COVID-19. A key  
36 issue to be addressed is the limitation on distance learning to satisfy dental licensure  
37 continuing education credits.  
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39 The Legislative Program members are Drs. Edmund Cassella, Lynn Fujimoto, Patsy  
40 Fujimoto, Carla Fukumoto, Sean Holliday, Lili Horton, Scott Kanamori, Christopher Lee,  
41 Wayne Leong, Dayton Lum, Neil Nunokawa, Glenn Okihiro (Co-chair), Curt Shimizu,  
42 Darrell Teruya, Steve Wilhite, Gary Yonemoto, and Christopher Young. Ms. Melissa  
43 Pavlicek and Mr. Danny Cup Choy from Hawaii Public Policy Advocates serve as  
44 HDA’s Legislative Consultants.  
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47 Respectfully Submitted,

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50 Norman Chun, DMD

51 Co-chair

52 Legislative Program

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54 **Recommendation of the HOD Reference Task Force on the Report of the HDA**  
55 **Legislative Program:**

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57 The HOD Reference Task Force recommends that the Report of the HDA Legislative  
58 Program be accepted.

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60 **Action taken by the House:** The HDA HOD accepted the Report of the HDA  
61 Legislative Program.

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64 **Resolution #2020-04:**

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66 **Background:** In 2021 the Legislative Program will continue to exercise sound fiscal  
67 management and requires appropriate funding to perform its responsibilities and  
68 recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

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70 **Resolved,** that the House of Delegates budget the sum of \$0 (income) and \$47,500.00  
71 (expense) for the conduct of the Legislative Program activities for 2021.

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73 **Recommendation of the HOD Reference Task Force on the HDA Legislative**  
74 **Program Resolution #2020-04:**

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76 The HOD Reference Task Force recommends that the HDA Legislative Program  
77 Resolution #2020-04 be adopted.

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79 **Action taken by the House:** The HDA HOD adopted the Resolution #2020-04.

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