



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
April 5, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

By  
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HB 696 Proposed SD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the committee:

The University is opposed to the language found in HB 696 Proposed SD1.

Kapi'olani Community College is the only Dental Assisting program in Hawai'i that is accredited by the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). As part of this accreditation, the program is held to strict standards for curriculum content and competencies. In addition, the program is only able to include skills training in areas that are legally within the scope of practice as allowed for dental assistants.

The current language contained in Part III and IV of this bill could lead to misinterpretation. Specifically, page 10, lines 5 through 10 will prohibit performance by a dental assistant of any duties that overlap with the scope of duties of a licensed dental hygienist. This could include duties already allowable such as taking radiographs, taking alginate impressions, removing sutures and cleaning and polishing removable appliances.

The subsequent Part IV. Section 9 states: "This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun before its effective date." This language is vague and could be subject to misinterpretation or manipulation. If the intent is to preserve the presently allowed duties of the dental assistant, it should be more plainly stated.

Prohibition of currently allowed duties will essentially mean the demise of KCC's Dental Assisting Program. CODA standards do not permit anything outside of the allowable duties for the jurisdiction the program resides in, to be part of the program's curricula. We respectfully request the removal of the language contained in Part III and IV of the proposed SD1.