



September 14, 2013

Council of Chief Academic Officers
2444 Dole Street, Bachman 204
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in support of the proposed Certificate of Achievement in Dental Assisting at Kapi'olani Community College. As a long-standing dental professional (Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) certified dental assistant and American Dental Association (ADA) and Hawai'i and California state certified registered dental hygienist) and dental health educator (program coordinator of University of Hawai'i Maui College Dental Assisting Program (CC) and assistant professor), I wholeheartedly endorse this proposal which supports the broadening of our avenues of opportunities for those students interested in pursuing a career in the dental profession.

Nationally and throughout the state of Hawai'i, there is a demand for Certified Dental Assistants (CDAs). On Maui, as the University of Hawai'i Maui College Dental Assisting Program graduates enter the workforce; I receive numerous requests from area dentists to employ our CDA certified dental assistants. Presently, 100% of our 2013 graduates who seek employment are successfully employed as dental assistants. I believe that as the dental program at Kapi'olani Community College moves forward, there too, will be a great demand for Kapi'olani Community College Dental Assisting Program graduates.

There is also a growing concern nationwide of the need for dental assistant licensure (<http://www.cnn.com/2013/03/29/health/oklahoma-dental-warning/index.html>). As the section secretary of the American Dental Education Association, I see a rising trend of dentists, licensure bodies, and the public requesting the need to reexamine mandatory National dental assistant licensure. The proposed Dental Assisting Program would provide the training and accreditation (by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation) needed for students to gain certification as Certified Dental Assistants. Students will also have the ability to work in those states requiring CDA certification and in Federal government positions, providing skilled dental care.

The pathways that the Kapi'olani Community College Dental Assisting Program proposal provide, allows students to join the workforce at various stages conducive to their needs and interests. It also provides quality, trained dental professionals for various positions in the dental team with ample employment opportunities available. Certificate earners in this program would have a greater chance of staying in Hawai'i, earn a living wage, and work in the field of their choice.

Thank you for your kind consideration of the Kapi'olani Community College Dental Assisting Program proposal. I am available for clarification of my message at yamadajo@hawaii.edu. Mahalo!

My best regards,


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