

The Voice -

The Newsletter of the Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association



Summer, 2009

President's Message - Aloha, Colleagues!



The last time I wrote for The Voice, our island had just been rocked by an earthquake. Now, I sit watching the winds bending the trees, blown away with the knowledge that there is a Category 4 hurricane heading straight for our island. Again, our speaker choice Winnie Furnari, RDH, BS, MS, on Disaster Readiness and Forensics, for the HDHA Annual Scientific Session to be held on Sunday, Oct. 4th, 2009, is confirmed as a wise one. Winnie is very excited to present for us and I sincerely hope that you are planning to attend. Our dental hygiene education puts us in a unique situation not only as prevention specialists, but as logical resources in the event of emergency. Our education, knowledge, and experience have earned us the skills to think critically.

This particular skill was recently challenged by the Hawaii Dental Association (HDA) at the April 3rd meeting of the Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners (HBODE). The HBODE, however, disagreed with HDA and adopted proposed rules changes by a 7 to 2 vote to recognize that dental hygienists are indeed educated to perform "dental hygiene diagnosis", utilizing their "critical decision making skills to reach conclusions about the patient's/client's dental hygiene needs based on all available assessment data."

On June 5th, the HBODE Rules and Legislative Committee brought forth new language to "clarify" the newly adopted rules, out of the blue. Unfortunately, for them, this was an illegal action, as they did not publicly post the meeting, agenda, or minutes, at which this new language was developed. Apparently, they met in secret, which is a direct violation of the Sunshine Law and the Hawaii Administrative Procedures Act (HAPA).

Having been warned about such actions before, the Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association Board of Trustees made the decision to officially put the HBODE on notice. On August 7, 2009, attorneys representing the HDHA hand delivered notice to Mr. Kobashigawa, Executive Director of the HBODE, outlining factual background; the Hawaii Administrative Procedures Act when making rules; failure to comply with HAPA; the Sunshine Law and failure to comply; requested remedies; and a deadline for their response.

The decision to put the Board on notice was not one taken lightly. The HDHA BOT greatly appreciates volunteers who have taken time out of their lives to participate on the HBODE and the work of that went into creating the adopted Rules. For that reason, HDHA has compromised by asking for the unwinding of only actions that occurred after the April 3rd adoption of Rules, and asks that in the future, the Board maintains a level of integrity by acting in compliance with HAPA and the Sunshine Law. Copies of the letter are available to HDHA members upon request.

Such challenges are occurring across the nation as dental hygienists everywhere make an effort to maintain a certain level of professionalism, while increasing access to care, quality of education, and creating new avenues toward professional growth. The HDHA delegation to Washington, DC, (eloquently reported by Laura Mallery-Sayre, RDH, BS, MEd, in this issue of The Voice) was adequately challenged and entirely successful. Networking with other hygiene leaders from across the United States was extremely enlightening and educational. Our profession is at risk and the best way to protect it is through membership in ADHA, the only organization that protects the interests of practicing dental hygienists everywhere, while working diligently to increase public access to quality dental hygiene care. I hope that each of you will realize the importance and value of spending one day of your salary/year...that's less than a dollar per day... to renew your professional membership. It is also my wish that each member encourage another hygienist to join.

Your membership dues pay for all of HDHA's political activities to protect the public and insure quality dental hygiene care, and the profession of dental hygiene, as we know it. If the attempted actions of the HDA at the HBODE meetings this year is any indication of what lies ahead at the legislature next year, it will surely be a challenging year, as HDA is determined to expand the duties of dental assistants in a way to diminish the need for dental hygienists. Your jobs are at risk! Do not hesitate to call me if you have questions or any doubt about this!

As an "oldster," these concerns will not effect my career as much as it will effect the newer generations of dental hygienists, especially those working in pediatric offices. Newer hygienists and future colleagues... BE WARY! Get involved. Maintain your membership. If you love your profession, protect it!

While we were at ADHA in Washington, DC, I had the great pleasure to spend time with new graduates from the University of Hawaii, who were there to display their table clinics. This group included Christine Nakamura, Rayann Bautista, Alise Park, and Tori Clegg, accompanied by Mrs. Julie Omori. What a joy it was to get to know them better, pose for the camera, dance together, and share some good laughs! The time I spent with these new professionals only strengthened my desire and commitment to protect and serve our profession and the patients/clients that we serve. I know these new colleagues learned a lot through their experience in Washington DC and enjoyed themselves immensely as they made many new friends. They have assured me that they plan to maintain their membership in HDHA and I hope, they will convince their classmate colleagues, as well. I only wish I knew how to convince all of our new professional colleagues of the value and importance of investing in their professional association.

On February 7th, 2010, HDHA will be presenting our Future Colleagues' Showcase at the University of Hawaii. We have a wonderful program planned for dental hygienists to celebrate this year's table clinics, complete with speakers on LASER, Evidence Based Decision Making, and Professional Chic (Dressing for Success on a Budget!), a silent auction, and a special program at the end for students planning to take the CRDTS exam. This day will be generously sponsored by Hu-Friedy.

The HDHA Continuing Education Committee has been working hard on program planning this year and I cannot thank them enough! There will be another program on April 24th, 2010, featuring 2009 ADHA/ Hu-Friedy Master Clinician, Noel Kelsch, RDH, BS, who will present an incredibly touching program on Meth Mouth. I hope you will mark your calendars for all of these events and please...Protect your investment... Renew your professional membership in ADHA/HDHA!



Love and light,

**~Diane Brucato-Thomas. RDH, EF, BS, FAADH
HDHA President 2008-2009**

**President-Elect, American Academy of Dental Hygiene
ADHA/Hu-Friedy Master clinician Award, 2008
HDHA Dedicated Member Award, 2008
HDHA Outstanding Member Award, 2003, 1999**

HDHA Members In DC

YOUR DELEGATION TO ADHA'S ANNUAL SESSION WAS BUSY! VISITS WITH CONGRESSWOMAN MAZIE HIRONO, HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETINGS, AND FUN AT THE INSTITUTE GALA/PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION WERE SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES FILLING THEIR TIME. THE MEETING WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!



2009 ADHA Delegate's Report

The American Dental Hygienists' 86th Annual Session started on June 17th with Washington, D.C.'s Capitol Hill being stormed by 1500+ dental hygienists from all over the United States seeking to support health care reform and to be part of the solution to our country's lack of access to care. The Hawaii Delegation of President Diane Brucato-Thomas, Laura Mallery-Sayre, Ellie Kelly Miyashiro and Kim Schneider met with Senator Daniel Akaka, Representative Mazie Hirono, and the staffs of Senator Daniel Inouye and Representative Neil Abercrombie.

After a special guided tour of the Capitol and a ride on the Senate subway, the delegation joined our fellow dental hygiene lobbyists to hear a rousing presentation from Congressman Elijah Cummings on the important role that dental hygienists have and should continue to pursue in providing preventive dental health care to the public. That evening District XII joined together to work on ADHA's proposed resolution changes and total revamping of the Association's Constitution and By-laws. It was the first of many long nights of the convention.

Thursday started the plenary sessions leading out with a workshop geared to solving the multigenerational puzzle of membership involvement. Student table clinics, awards luncheon, welcome reception and student bash were just some of the many activities held to involve our dental hygiene students and to allow for wonderful opportunities for the active members and students to share information and to interact as colleagues.



Friday continued with the Center For Lifelong Learning seminars, the commercial exhibits, The Philips Sonicare Mentor of the Year Award Reception honoring Toni Adams, and the District XII Dinner Reception.

On Saturday, The Opening Ceremonies for ADHA was highlighted with the presentation of awards to this year's recipients, more Lifelong Learning Seminars, followed by the CODA Hearing which was attended by the Hawaii Delegation. That evening, as Roaring Twenties flappers, the delegation attended the ADHA's Institute of Oral Health Gala and fundraiser.

We were happily surprised when we were presented with the Award For the Highest Percentage of Members as Institute Donors for the Category III Constituents!! Way to go Everyone!!!!

Sunday started our business meeting in earnest with a District XII meeting followed by the First House of Delegates, Reference Committee Hearings, and the Candidate's Forum. All sessions were extremely lively since our entire Constitution and By-laws was up for total revamping and not all Constituents were happy about the revisions. After an entire day of heated debates we headed into Monday with another Mega Issues Forum on why our Constitution needed to be changed, how to support better access to care, how to involve more hygienists in membership activities and how to better standardize our practices nationwide. Following another District XII meeting, we headed into the 2nd

House of Delegates to vote on the Reference Committee recommendations. This lasted until 9:30 PM with no breaks for dinner and in a freezing auditorium. We were recognizable by the blankets that were wrapped around us! The following are the final dispositions from our lengthy debates and votes:



Reference Committee A:

1. White Paper definition - an authoritative report or guide that provides information about emerging knowledge and issues on a specific topic.
2. Fact Sheet definition—A document that summarizes key points of information for distribution.
3. Dental Home definition—A relationship between a person and a specific team of health professionals, led by a licensed dental provider. The dental home is an ongoing partnership that coordinates comprehensive, accessible and culturally sensitive care through delivery of oral health services as part of integrated health care.
4. Proposed Resolution 6—ADHA advocates that the dental hygiene diagnosis is a necessary and intrinsic element of dental hygiene education and scope of practice.

Reference Committee B:

1. Proposed Resolution 7S - The American Dental Hygienists' Association affirms its support for optimal oral health for all people and is committed to collaborative partnerships and coalitions that improve access to oral health services.
2. Proposed Resolution 8 - The American Dental Hygienist' Association supports comprehensive oral health programs and services that reach at risk populations.

3. Proposed Resolution 9 - The American Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that any health insurance program include benefits for preventive, restorative and therapeutic oral health care.
4. Proposed Resolution 10—The American Dental Hygienists' Association supports expanding access to preventive, restorative and therapeutic care within the dental hygiene scope of practice.
5. Proposed Resolution 11 - The American Dental Hygienists' Association advocates that state dental hygiene and/or dental practice acts be amended so that the services of dental hygienists who are graduates from an accredited dental hygiene program can be fully utilized in all public settings.
6. Proposed Resolution 13 - ADHA supports Dental Hygienists as advocates for the profession of dental hygiene and related issues.

The Constitution and By-Laws Revisions are 21 pages in length so I will not report on them in the Voice but will have these changes available for the HDHA Annual Session to be held on October 4th. Many delegates feel that while we have a substantial working document that these revisions will be visited again during the 2010 ADHA Annual Session for further refining.

It was an honor to serve HDHA as a Delegate to ADHA. Our entire delegation was extremely active during all meetings.

~ **Laura Mallery-Sayre, RDH, MSDHEd**

YOU CAN SEE ALL THE EVENTS FROM ADHA'S 86TH ANNUAL SESSION ON...

ADHA's YouTube Channel!!!! Click [HERE](#) to re-live the festivities. You can also view and purchase photographs [HERE](#). And don't forget next year's Annual Session - June 23-29, 2010 in **LAS VEGAS!!!**



WHDHA RECEIVES GRANT

The West Hawai'i Dental Hygienists' Association (WHDHA) has received a \$2,000 grant from the Healing our Island Community Grant Fund, a State Grant in Aid project administered by the Hawai'i County Resource Center, a program of the Department of Research and Development.

Susan Smith, WHDHA president, says that funds will be used to place public service announcements on the County buses on the Big Island of Hawai'i. The focus of the messages is to create an awareness of the importance of oral health and provide information on how to prevent disease.

The topics that will be highlighted include the importance of oral health, causes and prevention of oral disease, such as early childhood caries and rampant decay caused by use of methamphetamine. The messages will also include a contact number for access to dental care here on the Big Island of Hawai'i. Brochures and handouts will be developed for distribution to community agencies, schools, social services and to the public.

Realizing the impact oral disease has had on the Keiki in our communities, a collaborative group of health professionals and community service agencies have been coming together since 2000 to focus on oral health promotion and to build networks in the community to improve access to care.



Members include the Department of Health/Maternal and Child Support Services, West Hawai'i Perinatal Consortia, Mobile Care Health Project, Neighborhood Place of Kona, Family Support Services of West Hawai'i, March of Dimes, Busy Buddies Hawai'i, WIC and West Hawai'i Community Health Center and West Hawai'i Dental Hygienist Association.

Over the years we have come together to coordinate the Healthy Hapai and Keiki Dental Fair each February. In August 2008, members met with Hawai'i County Council member Brenda Ford with the purpose of improving children's dental health in Hawai'i County. It is through the efforts of this partnership that this project has been planned.

~ Donna Altschul, RDH, BS

HAWAII DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION

18TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSION

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4, 2009 - HILTON WAIKIKI PRINCE KUHIO

Join us for a day of networking, learning and fun! Winnie Furnari, RDH, MS, FAADH will present two courses: "Disaster Readiness - The Role of the Dental Hygienist" and "Forensic Dentistry - The Role of the Dental Hygienist." Earn 4 CE hours, enjoy an on-site lunch and elect the HDHA slate of officers for 2010.

7:00-7:50 am	Registration, Continental Breakfast, Silent Auction Set-Up
8:00-10:00	Disaster Readiness - The Role of the Dental Hygienist
10:00-10:30	Break
10:30-11:30	Business Meeting & Election of Officers
11:30-11:45	Break
11:45-12:45	Luncheon & Announcement of Election Results
1:00-3:00	Forensic Dentistry - The Role of the Dental Hygienist
3:00-3:30	Installation of Officers

Register by September 18 and save! Members: \$75 Nonmembers: \$150

After September 18 - Members: \$100 Nonmembers: \$150

~ Contact Ellie Kelley-Miyashiro for more information.
memiyashiro23@yahoo.com



FDA RELEASES STATEMENT ON AMALGAM!

On July 28, 2009, the Food and Drug Administration released a statement on amalgam safety. Following is a reply to the statement from the American Dental Association.

WASHINGTON, July 28, 2009 The American Dental Association (ADA) agrees with the U.S. Food and Drug Administrations (FDA) decision not to place any restriction on the use of dental amalgam, a commonly used cavity-filling material.

The FDA ruling issued today categorizes encapsulated dental amalgam as a class II medical device, placing it in the same class as gold and tooth-colored composite fillings. The ADA has supported a class II designation for dental amalgam since 2002 when first proposed by the FDA.

“The FDA has left the decision about dental treatment right where it needs to be between the dentist and the patient,” states ADA President Dr. John Findley. “This decision underscores what the ADA has long supported, a discussion between dentists and patients about the full range of treatment options to help patients make educated decisions regarding their dental care.”

Dental amalgam is a cavity-filling material made by combining mercury with other metals such as silver, copper and tin. Numerous scientific studies conducted over the past several decades, including two large clinical trials published in the April 2006 Journal of the American Medical Association, indicate dental amalgam is a safe, effective cavity-filling material for children and others. And, in its 2009 review of the scientific literature on amalgam safety, the ADAs Council on Scientific Affairs reaffirmed that the scientific evidence continues to support amalgam as a valuable, viable and safe choice for dental patients.

“Dentists are doctors specializing in oral health care,” Dr. Findley states. “We encourage people to talk with their dentists if they have any questions about their oral health.”

Additional information about dental amalgam and other cavity-filling materials may be found on the ADAs web site at: www.ada.org.

To read the entire FDA statement, click below:

[FDA Issues Final Regulation on Dental Amalgam](#)

~Source: American Dental Association Council on Scientific Affairs

Breaking News!!!



Minnesota Makes History!

On May 16, Minnesota became the first state in the country to pass legislation to establish a new "mid-level" oral health provider. The legislation includes the dental therapist and advanced dental therapist providers in state statute and highlights requirements for the providers to become licensed and practice in the state. The advanced dental therapist provider paves the way for students educated under the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP) model developed by ADHA to enter into practice. Click [Here](#) for more information.

Do You Know About The Latest Perio/Cardio Guidelines?

The Journal of Periodontology and The American Journal of Cardiology recently published a

consensus paper that encourages periodontists and cardiologists to work together to promote patient health. The paper contains clinical recommendations on the treatment of periodontitis and atherosclerosis. Check it out:

[Perio/Cardio Consensus Paper](#)

The Washington Post Addresses Oral Health in Health Care Reform

In its June 23 issue, the [Washington Post](#) published an article titled "Putting Teeth in Health-Care Reform: Advocates Pursue Dental Issues," which talked about the urgency of having oral health care in the current health care reform discussion. The story, which headlined ADHA's slogan, "Put Teeth in Health Reform," also included coverage of this year's Lobby Day, in which hundreds of dental hygienists spent the day meeting with lawmakers and their staffs discussing various issues pertaining to dental hygiene and oral health. You can read the article here: [Washington Post](#)

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Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association

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Look for our next issue:

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