

Report of the President - 2016

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4 As president of the HDA this last year, I can truly say it has been a challenging year. The year
5 started with a very successful dental convention. Then our legislative breakfast was a great
6 success with many lengthy one on one conversations with our legislators. The legislative session
7 went as well as can be expected with no major bill adversely affecting our profession. I'd be
8 remiss if I didn't mention the great help we received from our ADA-sponsored SPA partners
9 Hawaii Public Policy Advocates and its president Melissa Pavlicek.

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11 We completed our third successful Give Kids A Smile event that our SPA partners and the
12 Young Dentist Group organized. Plus we had our first two neighbor island events on Maui and
13 Kauai. These events are totally the work of our Young Dentist Group. In fact, their president
14 Scott Morita was the recipient of the national ADA award for the Young Dentist of the Year!

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16 In August we hosted the Western States Presidents conference at the Moana hotel. This event
17 rotates between the thirteen western states and it was our turn to host. It's by far the best
18 interactive brainstorming meeting I attended throughout the year.

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20 The real challenge came when our executive director of 15 years, Loren Liebling, and the HDA
21 Board of Trustees mutually agreed on his retirement effective the end of September. The board
22 and I are confident this will help the HDA grow and improve as we move forward. I have been
23 acting as the interim ED since the beginning of August. I can't say enough MAHALOS to
24 several individuals including Drs. Chris Lee, Lynn Fujimoto, Patsy Fujimoto, Dayton Lum,
25 Wayne Leong, Lili Horton, and Curt Shimizu. They have really stepped up and helped our
26 association when it was needed the most.

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28 In closing, my primary goal of the year was to establish the Hawaii Dental Association
29 Foundation so our association can give back to our communities. It finally happened and I'm
30 proud to announce that Dr. Gary Yonemoto will be heading up this foundation for us.

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32 It has been my honor and privilege to serve the Hawaii Dental Association this past year. I know
33 that Dr. Chris Lee will provide excellent leadership next year and I look forward to great 2017.

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35 Respectfully submitted,

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38 Steve Wilhite DDS,
39 2015-2016 HDA President
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