



LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

JAMES R. AIONA, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH
DIRECTOR

RONALD BOYER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2010

Friday, February 19, 2010
11:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2029, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TO THE HONORABLE MARCUS R. OSHIRO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 2029, H.D. 1, Relating to Professions and Occupations. My name is Lawrence M. Reifurth, and I am the Department's Director. House Bill No. 2029, H.D. 1 proposes to repeal the regulatory programs of six professions and vocations (Barbering (chapter 438, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), Beauty Culture (Cosmetology, chapter 439, HRS), Electrology (chapter 448F, HRS), Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters (chapter 451A, HRS), Marriage and Family Therapists (chapter 451J, HRS), and Athlete Agents (chapter 481E, HRS)).

Although the Department takes no position on the bill, we appreciate the Committee's desire to enhance our efficiency by streamlining our operations. In 1999, the Department initiated similar legislation that proposed the deregulation of certain

licensing programs (H.B.1096/S.B.1304), and the elimination of certain boards and the transferring of responsibility for those licensing programs to the Department (H.B.1097/S.B.1305).

The Department suggests that when determining whether and which occupations should be deregulated, or if the regulatory responsibility of a particular board should be transferred to the Department, the Committee consider the recommendations of the Auditor in its sunset evaluation reports and sunrise analysis reports for that particular occupation. The Department notes that with one exception (Electrology), the Auditor recommended the repeal of the licensing programs that the bill proposes to repeal, or that regulation was not warranted (Barbering and Cosmetology (Rep. No. 01-02), Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters (Rep. No. 94-7), Marriage and Family Therapists (Rep. No. 02-01), and Athlete Agents (Rep. No. 06-09)).

Another indicator of whether deregulation is appropriate is the number of licensing complaints an occupation receives relative to the number of licensees it has. The Department notes that in fiscal years 2008 and 2009, the Department did not receive any complaints against licensed electrologists.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on the bill.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Finance

HB2029, HD1, Relating to Professions and Occupations

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.

Department's Position: The Department of Health strongly opposes the deregulation of marriage
2 and family therapists.

Fiscal Implications: Possible reductions in Medicaid reimbursements to the department of health.

Purpose and Justification: The purpose of this bill is to repeal the regulatory oversight of marriage
4 and family therapists and certain other occupations with the intent of streamlining the operations of the
5 department of commerce and consumer affairs.
6

The department of health strongly opposes the deregulation of marriage and family therapists as
8 it is not in the best interests of the consumer. Marriage and family therapists currently provide mental
9 health services to children and youth with emotional and behavioral challenges and alcohol and drug
10 abuse treatment services to those in need of those services. Marriage and family therapists enable
11 individuals to improve behavioral or psychological functioning, and help individuals reduce distress or
12 disability. Marriage and Family Therapists specialize in treating mental disorders within the context of
13 relationships, including family relationships. For youth with emotional and behavioral problems,
14 positive family relationships are integral to youth recovery.

1 Chapter 451J – Marriage and Family Therapists currently addresses such topics as scope of
2 practice, licensure requirements, licensing fees, removal of license, and confidentiality and privileged
3 communications. Retaining Chapter 451J assures quality of services, enhances access to services,
4 assures confidentiality of treatment, and reduces costs. Only services provided by or supervised by
5 licensed Marriage and Family Therapists are reimbursable by MedQUEST and private insurance.
6 Deregulation will result in reduced Medicaid reimbursement for the department of health. Deregulation
7 will result in a smaller pool of Qualified Mental Health Professionals in the state.

8 Rather than streamline government services, this measure will negatively affect the state's ability
9 to provide quality mental health and substance abuse services, and reduce the state's Medicaid
10 reimbursement dollars.

11 We respectfully request that this measure be held. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

1



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KAHALA SCHOOL
4559 KILAUEA AVENUE
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

February 17, 2010

Testimony by: Elizabeth Kong

RE: HB 2029 Professions and occupations

House FIN Hearing-Fri. Feb 19, 2010

Room 308-11:00am

Agenda Item @2

Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Finance Committee

My name is Elizabeth Kong, M.A., M.F.T, LSC, and RPT-S and am currently a School Counselor within the Department of Education for close to 20 years. As part of my duties within the Department of Education I provide counseling to children and work with their families in an educational setting to address various needs within the family which impact children at school. In addition, I have acted as a Practicum site supervisor for both Chaminade, Argosy and the University of Hawaii Master's degree level students seeking degrees in Counseling and Marriage Family Studies for the past 10 years. Every day, I see family issues such as divorce, separations, grief, substance abuse, family discord, family violence, and as well as other family related issues touch children in the school setting. Having a professional license in Marriage Family Counseling in the school setting helps me understand the children from a family system perspective and thus I can plan interventions not for the child and the family. By impacting the children, we touch the family who also reaches into our communities and beyond. Without Licensed Marriage Family Therapists in all settings, our ability to touch people's lives is compromised as the need intensifies and the resources are dispersed. Therefore, I oppose deregulation of our profession as Marriage Family Therapists who serve the unique needs of the communities in which we serve. Respectfully submitted. Thank you.

Elizabeth Kong MA, LMFT #238, LSC, RPT-S



UNIVERSITY
OF HAWAII
HILO

Department of Sociology
200 West Kawili Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Testimony in Opposition of HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

by:

Thom Curtis, Ph.D., M.F.T

Chair of DCCA's Marriage and Family Therapy Advisory Board

House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010

Room 308 – 11:00 am

Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Thom Curtis, Ph.D., M.F.T. I am chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and also serve as chair of DCCA's Marriage and Family Therapy License Advisory Committee. I was shocked and dismayed to learn this week that HB 2029 proposes the termination of Marriage and Family Therapy as a licensed profession in the State of Hawaii.

Licensing of Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) was enacted in 1999 after over five years of intense effort to bring Hawaii's mental health regulation into line with that in other states. MFTs are recognized with psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers and advanced practice psych nurses as members of the five key mental health professions in all fifty states.

There are currently 208 active licensed Marriage and Family Therapists in the State of Hawaii. They are distributed throughout the islands with the majority working on the neighbor islands providing for the mental health needs in underserved communities.

One of the key reasons that the legislature initially approved MFT licensing was to increase the state's mental health capacity. Consent decrees provided sufficient evidence that the state needed to do more, especially to meet the needs of children and adolescents. Colleges made promises to begin MFT educational programs in Hawaii if their students could be guaranteed licenses upon completion

Dozens of students are currently enrolled in Marriage and Family Therapy Master's Degrees at colleges in Hawaii and on the mainland. Many others have completed their degrees and are in the process of completing the post graduate internships in preparation for taking the licensing exam. They have made these commitments of time and money based on Hawaii's promise they could become a licensed professionals. Two universities have invested tremendous resources to

train MFTs in Hawaii. Chaminade University in Honolulu offers a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy at its Honolulu campus. Argosy University has current Marriage and Family Therapy master's degree cohorts at its campuses in Honolulu, Maui and Hilo.

The cost of this legislation in terms of insurance eligible mental health providers needs to be carefully considered. According to DCCA's most recent (January 5, 2010) report, there are 1,869 licensed mental health professionals (MFT, psychologists, mental health counselors and licensed clinical social workers) in Hawaii. Statewide, a little over 11% are MFTs. However, most MFTs practice on the neighbor islands. A breakdown by island demonstrates that 24% of all licensed mental health professionals on the Big Island are MFTs. Similarly, almost 20% of mental health professionals on Maui and 18% on Kauai are MFTs.

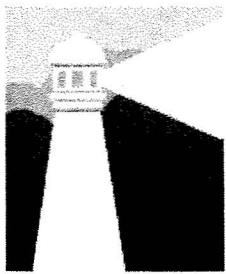
	MFT	PSY	MHC	LCSW	Total	MFT %
Total						
Active	208	868	194	599	1869	11.13%
Oahu	85	508	123	353	1069	7.95%
Hawaii	50	66	25	67	208	24.04%
Maui	28	37	20	58	143	19.58%
Kauai	14	30	8	25	77	18.18%
Molokai	1	1	1	3	6	16.67%
Lanai		1			1	0.00%
Mainland	27	222	17	89	355	7.61%
Foreign		2	4	4	10	0.00%

Eliminating a mental health profession that is this important to the people of the state just doesn't make sense. I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 981-5685 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Thom Curtis, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Sociology



Hale Ipu Kukui Alaka'i

The Guiding Light

Testimony by: Leslie Ross, Ph.D., MFT

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010

Room 308 – 11:00 am

Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029.

I serve as the President /CEO of Hale Ipu Kukui Alaka'i, a non-profit social service agency dealing with clients who have severe and persistent mental illness. I am also a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist practicing in Hawaii.

I strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the community. This agency utilizes MFT's frequently to serve our clients. This population frequently has a difficult time obtaining services from other mental health providers. Marriage and Family therapists are a recognized discipline in the State of Hawaii to serve as "Qualified Mental Health Professionals."

- MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states.
- MFTs work in a variety of agencies and settings within our state including, but not limited to: the Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; active duty military and their families; U.S. Department of Transportation; rural areas; families and communities; hospital and clinic systems; substance abuse treatment centers; and mental health practices.
- The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.
- MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family

Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist.

- The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402).
- MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
-

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029.

I can be reached at (808) 722-0225 if additional information is needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Leslie Ross, Ph.D.
President
Hale Ipu Kukui Alaka'i

1188 Bishop Street #2704
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-599-5001

Tim W. Ficklin, Ph.D.
Chaminade University
tim.ficklin@Chaminade.edu

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed

February 17, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

I am the Clinical Director of the Graduate Program in Marriage and Family Counseling at Chaminade University of Honolulu. We currently have about 100 graduate students in our program pursuing the Master of Science degree and later will pursue the primary credential of MFT which is recognized in ALL fifty United States.

If this bill is enacted law, I simply will not know what to tell my students. Do I say that their training and their degree is valued in all of the United States, except Hawaii? I believe that Hawaii needs the work of trained, professional MFT's to work with children and adults who have been abused, physically or sexually; to work with couples and families to manage conflicts in their relationships in order to help prevent domestic violence; to work with individuals and their families suffering from all of the effects of substance abuse; and, so many other areas of mental health.

In my opinion, to deregulate this profession at this time in our history, when the services these students would provide are so much needed would send the wrong message to the students and the people of the great State of Hawaii. We need to ensure that mental health services are provided by qualified professionals.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential professional mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask for your support by voting against HB2029 in its current form. Please contact me should you desire any further information.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim W. Ficklin, Ph.D.
Clinical Director, Marriage & Family Counseling
Chaminade University of Honolulu
(808) 739-4641

Jennifer Stevens, MA, MFT
Kauai Family Therapy

2975 Haleko Rd, Ste. 307
Lihue, HI 96766

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Jennifer@KauaiFamilyTherapy.com
www.kauaifamilytherapy.com

Testimony by:
Jennifer Stevens, MA, MFT
Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 17, 2010

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:
Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Jennifer Stevens, MA, MFT, and I am the owner of Kauai Family Therapy, a Marriage and Family Therapy private practice in Lihue. I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I provide assessment, diagnosis and psychotherapeutic services to adults, children, couples, and families. I provide these services as a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT). I am also a California Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. I moved to Kauai seven years ago for the express purpose of pursuing a career as a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. If Hawaii had not had MFT Licensure at that time I would not have considered Marriage and Family Therapy a viable career in Hawaii even though there was and still is a shortage of qualified mental health professionals to serve the people of Kauai.

On any given work day I encounter family issues including but not limited to domestic violence, child abuse, substance abuse, and suicidality. I also treat mental health diagnosis as defined in the Diagnostic and Statistics Manual IV (DSMIV) such as mood disorders, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder in adults and children, etc.

I also have specialized training in working with traumatized children, parenting, difficult parent /child relationships and attachment disorders. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists assist men, women and children through many different crises and help to strengthen relationships and the foundations of families.

The work that I do is highly specialized and would not be possible without the extensive education, training and experience that I acquired under the supervision of a more experienced and approved Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. MFTs are the only licensed professionals with specialized training in marriage and family therapy. HRS Chapter 451J is crucial to the profession of Marriage and Family Therapy as it legally defines the educational requirements, training, experience and testing required for licensure as well as the Scope of Practice of a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. It protects consumers by defining minimum standards and assuring they have been met, legally protecting the psychotherapeutic relationship with confidentiality and privilege.

Also as licensed Marriage and Family Therapist professional, I am held to the Ethical Standards of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. A national organization which without State licensure I am not qualified to be a Clinical Member and would not have any affiliation or obligation to any specific code of ethics. The AAMFT code of ethics defines how I work with individuals and families. For example, I provide services without discrimination on the basis of race, gender, ethnic origin or religion, my fees are disclosed in advance and are not excessive, I provide services for the benefit of the client and do not take advantage to the therapeutic relationship for personal gain. I work within my expertise and both collaborate and refer to psychiatrists, psychologists and other professionals to the benefit of clients.

Both the legal code and the ethics code protect the people of Hawaii from actual or potential exploitation by holding professionals accountable. Without clear legal and ethical guidelines, the families of Hawaii are very vulnerable to persons holding themselves out to provide Marriage and Family Therapy who lack education, training or experience to provide this mental health service without intentional or unintentional irreparable harm done to them.

I receive referrals from private physicians, insurance companies, and work organizations. I receive these referrals based on licensure as an MFT. Most of my professional services are paid for by Hawaii insurance companies, including HMSA, AlohaCare, Medicaid, TriCare. If MFTs were no longer licensed in Hawaii, then most of the individuals and families I provide mental health services to would be unable to access my services or those from another qualified Marriage and Family Therapist in a timely manner. In these difficult economic times most could not afford to pay privately. And, again, MFTs are the only licensed practitioners with specialized training in marriage and family therapy. It would be very likely that my business would close.

I humbly and respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 482-0994 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Stevens, MA, MFT

TalkDoctors, LLC



(808) 961-9999
(877) 368-6000

180 Kionoole Street, #202
Hilo, HI 96720

Info@TalkDoctors.com
www.talkdoctors.com

Testimony by:
Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T., and I am the co-owner of and primary psychotherapist for TalkDoctors, LLC, a Hilo-based psychotherapy and consulting service. TalkDoctors provides psychotherapeutic, consulting, employee assistance, and substance abuse services to hundreds of individuals, couples, families, work organizations, schools, state agencies, and health care systems within the state. I provide these services as a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT). My wife Julia (co-owner) and I operate TalkDoctors as husband and wife.

We are currently assisting with a variety of community-based services, including the reunification of families; following Child Welfare Service intervention; in conjunction with Ohana Conference, Parents, Inc., and other groups. MFTs are the only licensed practitioners specifically trained in marriage and family therapy.

We also provide advocacy and consultation services for disabled children within the public school system, in conjunction with Department of Education (DOE) personnel, Department of Health (DOH) representatives, other state and federal agencies, and impacted families. Again, MFTs are the only licensed professionals with specialized training in marriage and family therapy.

Further, TalkDoctors provides the full range of mental health and substance abuse services within a private practice setting in Hilo and Puna districts; helping individuals,

couples, and families with concerns such as domestic violence, drug abuse, relationship distress, family problems, and teen pregnancy. And, again, MFTs are the only licensed practitioners with specialized training in marriage and family therapy.

We receive referrals from private physicians, health care systems, insurance companies, work organizations, Veteran's Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, and more. And, we receive these referrals based on licensure as MFTs.

Approximately 95% of our services are paid for by Hawaii insurance companies, including HMSA, AlohaCare, Medicaid, UHA, HMA, TriCare, OhanaCare, EverCare, HMAA; and also mainland-based insurance companies including UBH, Cigna, to name a few. If MFTs were no longer licensed in Hawaii, then virtually all of these affected families would be unable to receive quality health care from qualified specialists, since most could not afford to pay privately.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 961-9999 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T., C.E.A.P., S.A.P., C.A.I.
Co-owner and Psychotherapist

Julia I. Swigart,
Co-owner and Office Manager

Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy



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HAMFT networks, educates, and advocates for the enrichment of our members, the advancement of our profession, and the health of our community.

Testimony by:

Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T., and I am President of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). HAMFT represents 315 licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) in the State of Hawaii. MFTs work in a variety of agencies and settings within our state including, but not limited to: the Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; active duty military and their families; U.S. Department of Transportation; rural areas; families and communities; hospital and clinic systems; substance abuse treatment centers; and mental health practices.

Marriage and Family Therapy is a science driven, research based profession comprised of mental health practitioners trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems. MFTs specialize in treating mental disorders within the context of relationships. MFTs work with the individual, couple, or family to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved.

The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a “core mental health profession” along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services including, but not limited to: 1. individual psychotherapy; 2. relationship counseling; 3.

family therapy; 4. work-related consultation; 5. substance abuse professional evaluations; 6. child custody evaluation; 7. school counseling; and more. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy.

We strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. However, with de-regulation, there is the potential for Marriage and Family Therapists who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii and, in the worst case scenario, an individual could establish her/his own practice and claim that they provide Marriage and Family Therapy services; when, in fact, she/he may not have the professional qualifications which could clearly lead to consumer harm. Further, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.

MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.

The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.

MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (3). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (4). Including Family Therapists in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.

MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

Finally, if you, or a family member, had a family crisis, potential relationship breakup, family substance abuse problem, or adolescent emergency; your physician would refer you for marriage and family therapy services. The MFT would work with you on the resolution of your relationship or family problems. However, if this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated. Major insurance carriers, such as HMSA and AlohaCare, along with Medicaid; and other 3rd party payers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 987-7070 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T., C.E.A.P., S.A.P., C.A.I.,
HAMFT President

2. Henrick Harwood, "Training of Behavioral Health Practitioners to Address Substance Use Disorders," Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2003,40-42.
3. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients,"Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2004,33.
4. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients,"Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2004,32.
5. David Hartley, et al., State Licensure Lows and the Mental Health Professions: Implications for the Rural Mental Health Workforce (Portland, ME: Maine Rural Health Research Center, University of Southern Maine, 2002) 8.



Chaminade University OF HONOLULU

MS Counseling Psychology

Testimony for the House Finance Committee
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Position: Opposed

February 17, 2010

Dorothy Bach MSCP, MHC, NCC
Internship Director for Community and Marriage & Family Counseling
Chaminade University
3140 Waialae Ave.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816

RE: HB 2029 Relating to Professions and Occupations: **Opposition** opinion presented.

To the Honorable Representative Oshiro Chair, Honorable Representative Lee Vice Chair and Members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am testifying in strong opposition of HB 2029. As Internship Director for Community and Marriage & Family Counseling passing 2029 may diminish the level and consistency of care individuals receive from Marriage and Family Therapists. Licensure ensures Marriage and Family Therapists are trained in specific techniques related to academics and standards of care for marriage and family clientele.

I have worked in the Mental Health field in Honolulu since 1991. Many agencies have employed a Marriage and Family therapist on site. Agencies dealing with substance abuse issues work closely with MFT's (Marriage and Family Therapists). I have seen individuals and families benefit from counseling sessions at the Salvation Army Adult Treatment Services and Salvation Army Family Treatment Services and the Bobby Benson Center.

Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT's) provide a valuable service to the people and State of Hawaii. MFT's are widely recognized as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government and provide services to service persons and their families. MFT's are committed to improving the quality of life for families and communities throughout Hawaii.

Thank you for considering this opposing perspective.

Respectfully,

Dorothy Bach MSCP, MHC, NCC
Internship Director Community and Marriage & Family Counseling
Chaminade University
Honolulu, Hawaii

I strongly encourage you to pass SB 2159 HD1 out of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce as it will be of benefit to the people of Hawaii.

René M. Garvin, M.A.

Consultant, Family Therapist, Substance Abuse Counselor

974 Maninihola Street

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96825

Ph/Fax (808)395-5406

February 17, 2010

Re: Oppose HB2029

TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair Oshiro and members of the Finance Committee

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2029 regarding Marriage & Family Therapist Licensure.

As a Marriage & Family Therapist for many years, both in Hawaii and in California, I can affirm that MFT's provide an essential service to the members of our community. I see many families, couples and individuals who need help getting over some "rough spots" in their lives, relationships and emotional health. MFT's are trained to provide brief, evidenced based therapy to alleviate problems before they become overwhelming.

Marriage & Family Therapists are recognized and licensed in all 50 states and are considered one of the three core mental health disciplines by the Federal Government. If licensure in Hawaii is removed, the ability to ensure the quality and training of these clinicians is compromised and those without proper training and a professional code of ethics will be free to label themselves as Marriage & Family Therapists. The lay public does not have knowledge of these distinctions – I believe that this bill would predispose clients to potential harm from unqualified therapists and the state would have no way to discipline unethical, unqualified therapists if there is no licensure.

I urge you to vote "no" on this poorly conceived bill which I believe endangers the public.

Thank you,

Rene Garvin
reneg@lava.net
974 Maninihola Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

Jennifer Stevens, MA, MFT
Kauai Family Therapy

2975 Haleko Rd, Ste. 307
Lihue, HI 96766

(808)482-0994

Jennifer@KauaiFamilyTherapy.com
www.kauaifamilytherapy.com

Testimony by:
Jennifer Stevens, MA, MFT
Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 17, 2010

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:
Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Jennifer Stevens, MA, MFT, and I am the owner of Kauai Family Therapy, a Marriage and Family Therapy private practice in Lihue. I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I provide assessment, diagnosis and psychotherapeutic services to adults, children, couples, and families. I provide these services as a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT). I am also a California Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. I moved to Kauai seven years ago for the express purpose of pursuing a career as a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. If Hawaii had not had MFT Licensure at that time I would not have considered Marriage and Family Therapy a viable career in Hawaii even though there was and still is a shortage of qualified mental health professionals to serve the people of Kauai.

On any given work day I encounter family issues including but not limited to domestic violence, child abuse, substance abuse, and suicidality. I also treat mental health diagnosis as defined in the Diagnostic and Statistics Manual IV (DSMIV) such as mood disorders, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder in adults and children, etc.

I also have specialized training in working with traumatized children, parenting, difficult parent /child relationships and attachment disorders. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists assist men, women and children through many different crises and help to strengthen relationships and the foundations of families.

The work that I do is highly specialized and would not be possible without the extensive education, training and experience that I acquired under the supervision of a more experienced and approved Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. MFTs are the only licensed professionals with specialized training in marriage and family therapy. HRS Chapter 451J is crucial to the profession of Marriage and Family Therapy as it legally defines the educational requirements, training, experience and testing required for licensure as well as the Scope of Practice of a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. It protects consumers by defining minimum standards and assuring they have been met, legally protecting the psychotherapeutic relationship with confidentiality and privilege.

Also as licensed Marriage and Family Therapist professional, I am held to the Ethical Standards of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. A national organization which without State licensure I am not qualified to be a Clinical Member and would not have any affiliation or obligation to any specific code of ethics. The AAMFT code of ethics defines how I work with individuals and families. For example, I provide services without discrimination on the basis of race, gender, ethnic origin or religion, my fees are disclosed in advance and are not excessive, I provide services for the benefit of the client and do not take advantage to the therapeutic relationship for personal gain. I work within my expertise and both collaborate and refer to psychiatrists, psychologists and other professionals to the benefit of clients.

Both the legal code and the ethics code protect the people of Hawaii from actual or potential exploitation by holding professionals accountable. Without clear legal and ethical guidelines, the families of Hawaii are very vulnerable to persons holding themselves out to provide Marriage and Family Therapy who lack education, training or experience to provide this mental health service without intentional or unintentional irreparable harm done to them.

I receive referrals from private physicians, insurance companies, and work organizations. I receive these referrals based on licensure as an MFT. Most of my professional services are paid for by Hawaii insurance companies, including HMSA, AlohaCare, Medicaid, TriCare. If MFTs were no longer licensed in Hawaii, then most of the individuals and families I provide mental health services to would be unable to access my services or those from another qualified Marriage and Family Therapist in a timely manner. In these difficult economic times most could not afford to pay privately. And, again, MFTs are the only licensed practitioners with specialized training in marriage and family therapy. It would be very likely that my business would close.

I humbly and respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 482-0994 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Stevens, MA, MFT

Jeffrie L. Wagner, MFT, CSAC
Hawaii Counseling Center, LLC
328 Uluniu Street #203
Kailua, HI 96734
808-221-8994
jwagner@hawaiicounselingcenter.com
www.hawaiicounselingcenter.com

Testimony by:
Jeffrie L Wagner, M.F.T
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Jeffrie Wagner, M.F.T., and I am the owner of and primary psychotherapist for Hawaii Counseling Center, LLC (HCC), an Oahu-based psychotherapy and consulting service. HCC provides psychotherapeutic, consulting, employee assistance, and substance abuse services to hundreds of individuals, couples, families, work organizations, schools, state agencies, and health care systems within the state. I provide these services as a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT).

We are currently assisting with a variety of community-based services, including the deployment/reunification of families in all branches of the Military; assessments and therapy for adolescents suspended from school for substance abuse issues and other groups. MFTs are the only licensed practitioners specifically trained in marriage and family therapy.

We also provide advocacy and consultation services for children within the public school system, in conjunction with Department of Education (DOE) personnel, Department of Health (DOH) representatives, other state and federal agencies, and impacted families. Again, MFTs are the only licensed professionals with specialized training in marriage and family therapy.

Hawaii Counseling Center provides the full range of mental health and substance abuse services within a private practice setting in Kailua and Honolulu districts; helping individuals, couples, and families with concerns such as domestic violence, drug abuse, relationship distress, family problems, and teen pregnancy. And, again, MFTs are the only licensed practitioners with specialized training in marriage and family therapy.

We receive referrals from private physicians, health care systems, insurance companies, work organizations, Hawaii unions, U.S. Department of

Transportation, and more. And, we receive these referrals based on licensure as MFTs.

Approximately 95% of our services are paid for by Hawaii insurance companies, including HMSA, AlohaCare, UHA, HMA, TriCare, and HMAA. If MFTs were no longer licensed in Hawaii, then virtually all of these affected families would be unable to receive quality health care from qualified specialists, since most could not afford to pay privately.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 221-8994 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Jeffrie L Wagner, MFT



The Institute for Family Enrichment

2/17/10

Jennifer Moss
1993 S Kihei Rd. ste 21-133
Kihei HI 96753

My name is Jennifer Moss, iMFT and I am the Maui Island Coordinator for the Nurturing Parenting Programs sponsored by The Institute for Family Enrichment. In addition to being on of about 60 National Parenting Trainers in the United States for Nurturing Parenting, I also have a private practice and am under the supervision of Mitch Berman.

Marriage and Family Therapists are trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems. MFTs specialize in treating mental disorders within the context of relationships. MFTs work with the individual, couple, or family to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved.

The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services including, but not limited to: 1. individual psychotherapy; 2. relationship counseling; 3. family therapy; 4. work-related consultation; 5. substance abuse professional evaluations; 6. child custody evaluation; 7. school counseling; and more. **MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy.**

We strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. However, with de-regulation, there is the potential for Marriage and Family Therapists who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii and, in the worst case scenario, an individual could establish her/his own practice and claim that they provide Marriage and Family Therapy services; when, in fact, she/he may not have the professional qualifications which could clearly lead to consumer harm. Further, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.

MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.

The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.

MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (3). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (4). Including Family Therapists in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.

MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

Finally, if you, or a family member, had a family crisis, potential relationship breakup, family substance abuse problem, or adolescent emergency; your physician would refer you for marriage and family therapy services. The MFT would work with you on the resolution of your relationship or family problems. However, if this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated. Major insurance carriers, such as HMSA and AlohaCare, along with Medicaid; and other 3rd party payers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 987-7070 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Moss, iMFT
Maui Island Coordinator
National Trainer/Consultant
Nurturing Parenting Programs
(808) 281-1494



Taking Care of the Human Side of Your Business

February 18, 2010

Testimony Re: House Bill 2029

To whom it may concern:

It has just come to my attention that HB 2029 is coming to a vote quickly which would basically remove licensure for Marriage and Family Therapists in Hawaii. Although I'm not a MFT, three of them work for me.

I am the Director of WorkLife Hawaii, the state's largest Employee Assistance Program, a division of Child and Family Service. We serve over 70 businesses across Hawaii, and I rely on licensed counseling professionals to serve over 100,000 Hawaii residents.

The loss of my three licensed Marriage and Family Therapists would have a serious negative impact on the services we provide to Hawaii businesses and families. This is especially the case on Neighbor Islands where there are not always a wide variety of trained, licensed counselors available.

The need for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists is especially important now as families are feeling the brunt of the current economic situation and face a higher level of struggle than they did just a few years ago. To deprive these families of Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists would mean fewer families would be able to receive necessary services through their health care benefits, which would put a greater burden on the already overwhelmed State system.

That this bill lumps Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists -- who have graduate degrees and specialized training -- in with barbers, cosmetologists, athlete agents, hearing aid dealers and fitters, and electrologists, I believe is an insult to all Professional Counselors. I encourage you to take action against this portion of this bill. I encourage you to remove Marriage and Family Therapists from the list of professions that are being impacted by this bill. As written, I do not believe this bill truly serves this State or its population and additionally has the impact of harming families.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Mitchell".

David W. Mitchell, M.A.
Director



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
OTOLARYNGOLOGY—
HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

February 18, 2010

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Sent via facsimile: 1-808-586-6201

Re: Opposition to HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations

Dear Chairman Oshiro:

The American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) would like to register its strong opposition to the deregulation of hearing aid dispensing as proposed by HB 2029. Should this bill pass in its current form, the state would place hearing-impaired patients at risk of receiving less than optimal hearing aid services and poor outcomes that could lead to more serious otologic medical conditions.

The AAO-HNS represents more than 11,500 physicians in the United States who diagnose and treat disorders of the ears, nose, throat, and related structures of the head and neck, including 51 members who live and practice in Hawaii. Otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons are also commonly referred to as ear, nose, and throat specialists (ENTs). The medical disorders treated by our specialty are among the most common that afflict all Americans, and include hearing and communication disorders, head and neck cancer, chronic ear infection, sinusitis, snoring and sleep apnea, and facial and cranial nerve disorders.

The AAO-HNS recognizes that the state is looking at options to cut cost and reduce administrative functions; however, the deregulation of hearing aid dispensing is not an appropriate strategy. Regardless of the number of licensees or complaints filed, the regulation of hearing aid dispensers offers protection to consumers that only those who are trained and meet competency standards are legally permitted to fit and dispense hearing aids, unless otherwise exempted.

We are concerned that without oversight via a regulatory program, a lay person could dispense hearing aids, increasing the possibility of error, further hearing loss, and even medical complications. In order to receive the maximum benefit from hearing aids - which can cost upwards of several thousand dollars - they must be customized for each consumer. This requires an advanced set of knowledge and skills. **Therefore, hearing aids must be fitted and dispensed by competent, trained professionals in order to**

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
OTOLARYNGOLOGY-
HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

AAO-HNS Letter to Chairman Oshiro
February 18, 2010
Page 2

maximize the patient's benefit and minimize safety risks, such as damage to the inner ear structures (cochlea or auditory nerve), middle ear (ear drum or ossicles), or ear canal.

The appropriateness of regulating hearing aid dealers is also evidenced by the fact that all 50 states operate licensing programs, the majority of which are overseen by an independent board comprised of hearing aid dealers, otolaryngologists, dispensing audiologists, and/or hearing aid consumers. Perhaps expanding the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology in order to integrate hearing aid dealer licensure would be a suitable alternative to outright elimination.

For these reasons, the AAO-HNS urges you and the members of the House Finance Committee to retain the regulation of hearing aid dispensers as provided by current law. We believe HB 2029, in its current form, will diminish the quality of care and patient safety standards currently afforded Hawaii's hearing healthcare patients. With questions, please contact Alissa Parady, Senior Manager of State Legislative Affairs, at 1-703-535-3794 or legstate@entnet.org.

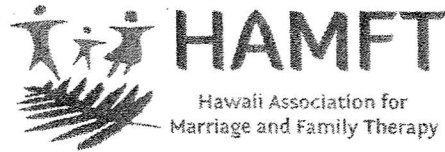
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David R. Nielsen, MD
Executive Vice President and CEO

Cc: Christopher Klem, MD, President, Hawaii Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy



(808) 291-5321
(808) 622-4971

P.O. Box 2120
Honolulu, HI 96805-2120

hamft.admin@gmail.com
www.hamft.net

HAMFT networks, educates, and advocates for the enrichment of our members, the advancement of our profession, and the health of our community.

Testimony by:

Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T., and I am President of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). HAMFT represents 315 licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) in the State of Hawaii. MFTs work in a variety of agencies and settings within our state including, but not limited to: the Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; active duty military and their families; U.S. Department of Transportation; rural areas; families and communities; hospital and clinic systems; substance abuse treatment centers; and mental health practices.

Marriage and Family Therapy is a science driven, research based profession comprised of mental health practitioners trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems. MFTs specialize in treating mental disorders within the context of relationships. MFTs work with the individual, couple, or family to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved.

The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a “core mental health profession” along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services including, but not limited to: 1. individual psychotherapy; 2. relationship counseling; 3. family therapy; 4. work-related consultation; 5. substance abuse professional evaluations;

6. child custody evaluation; 7. school counseling; and more. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy.

We strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. However, with de-regulation, there is the potential for Marriage and Family Therapists who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii and, in the worst case scenario, an individual could establish her/his own practice and claim that they provide Marriage and Family Therapy services; when, in fact, she/he may not have the professional qualifications which could clearly lead to consumer harm. Further, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.

MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.

The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental

health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.

MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (3). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (4). Including Family Therapists in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.

MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

Finally, if you, or a family member, had a family crisis, potential relationship breakup, family substance abuse problem, or adolescent emergency; your physician would refer you for marriage and family therapy services. The MFT would work with you on the resolution of your relationship or family problems. However, if this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated. Major insurance carriers, such as HMSA and AlohaCare, along with Medicaid; and other 3rd party payers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 987-7070 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T., C.E.A.P., S.A.P., C.A.I.,
HAMFT President

2. Henrick Harwood, "Training of Behavioral Health Practitioners to Address Substance Use Disorders," Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2003,40-42.
3. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients,"Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2004,33.
4. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients,"Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2004,32.
5. David Hartley, et al., State Licensure Lows and the Mental Health Professions: Implications for the Rural Mental Health Workforce (Portland, ME: Maine Rural Health Research Center, University of Southern Maine, 2002) 8.

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII****1360 S. Beretania St., Suite 301, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814****Testimony by:****Avis Sakata, OTR****HB 2029hd1, Professions and Occupations****House FIN Hearing – Friday, Feb. 19, 2010****Room 308 – 11:00 am****Position: Support**

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House FIN Committee:

I am Avis Sakata, OTR and president of the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, (OTAH), which represents 507 occupational therapists (OTs) licensed in Hawaii. OT's work in many settings throughout the State, including hospitals, schools, prisons, skilled nursing to private facilities and community-based programs.

Occupational Therapy is a science driven, evidenced-based profession that enables people of all ages, from infants to the elderly, to live life to its fullest by helping them promote health and prevent or live better with illness, injury or disability.

Occupational Therapists are recognized members of the Healthcare Rehabilitation team which is comprised also of physicians, nurses, physical therapists, speech therapists, social workers and others. As a healthcare provider, OTs provide, but are not limited to: 1) assessment and evaluation of our patients/clients needs and development of an appropriate treatment plan, 2) interventions focused on daily living skills (including self-care), work readiness, play or educational performance skills, 3) and interventions that include sensorimotor, neuromuscular functioning, cognitive or psychosocial components.

We appreciate the House CPC Committee's amendments that no longer call for the repeal of HRS Chapter 457G, relating to Occupational Therapy. The HD1 clearly acknowledges the significance of licensure/registration of Occupational Therapy practitioners. We urge your passage of HB 2029,hd1, in regards to Occupational Therapy because it preserves consumer protection from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide OT services. From 1991 to present, DCCA has not received any complaints of consumer harm or questions regarding our practice. OT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice.

If you sustained a stroke and your motor function/movement on your dominant hand is affected, your physician would refer you to OT services. The OT would work with you on rehabilitation of function, regaining movement and strength to allow you to do some of the simple things in life that we take for granted such as writing, feeding, dressing, using your computer or even text messaging. Preservation of HRS Chapter 457G, which provides the licensure/registration of Occupational Therapy practitioners, facilitates consumer access to medically necessary care. Without the licensure/registration, major insurance carriers such as HMSA and Hawaii State Workers Compensation system along with Medicare and Medicaid and other 3rd party payors would not recognize services or provide health plan coverage for Occupational Therapy services.

I can be reached at 522-4602 if further information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**International Hearing Society**

16880 Middlebelt Rd., Ste. 4 • Livonia, MI 48154

p 734.522.7200 • f 734.522.0200

www.ihinfo.org

Friday, February 19, 2010; 11:00 am
Conference Room 308

The House Committee on Finance

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
From: Susan Stewart
Government Affairs Manager
International Hearing Society
Re: Testimony in **OPPOSITION** to HB 2029

I respectfully submit the following on behalf of the International Hearing Society (IHS). IHS is the membership organization representing the interests of approximately 10,000 hearing aid specialists in the United States, including the 109 practitioners in the state of Hawaii. Hearing aid specialists are healthcare professionals licensed by the states specifically to provide hearing health services.

We are writing in strong **opposition to HB 2029** Relating to Professions and Occupations which, among other amendments, repeals the regulatory program of **Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters (HRS Chapter 451A)**.

Deregulation of Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters is not in the best interest of the consumer. The practice of testing, selecting, fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments is highly specialized to maximize the level of quality care and minimize the risk to the patient. Quality consumer care can only be achieved by assuring that minimum competency standards are met and regulatory oversight is in place to ensure adherence to competent and ethical conduct. The fact that there have been no consumer complaints in FY2008 and FY2009 is a testament to the efficacy of this model in your state. As the entity responsible for providing the International Licensing Examination (ILE) to measure minimum competency to obtain a license to practice the fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments, IHS can attest to the necessity of continuing its utilization. Consider that, in the past five years, 75 individuals have taken the ILE examination to become a licensed hearing aid dealer or fitter in your state. Of these, only 44 successfully passed the exam. Deregulation of hearing aid dealers and fitters would unnecessarily expose consumers to incompetent and unqualified care.

Further, as a financially self-sustaining program, there is no fiscal impact to be gained by deregulating this profession.

Therefore, we ask that **language to repeal HRS Chapter 451A - Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters be removed from HB 2029**, which would maintain the regulatory program of hearing aid dealers and fitters through the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**Testimony by:
Ann Frost, PT**

**HB 2029, HD1, Relating to Professions and
Occupations
Hse FIN, Friday, February 19, 2010
Room 308, 11:00 am**



Position: Support

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House FIN Committee:

I am Ann Frost, P.T., President of the Hawaii Chapter – American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA) and member of HAPTA's Legislative Committee. HAPTA represents 250-300 physical therapists and physical therapist assistants employed in hospitals, nursing homes, the Armed Forces, the Department of Education and Department of Health (DOH) systems, and private clinics throughout our community. Physical therapists work with everyone, from infants to the elderly, to restore and improve function and quality of life. We are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Rehabilitative services are a vital part of restoring optimum function from neuromusculoskeletal injuries and impairments.

We support the HD1 amendments that remove any reference to de-regulating health care professionals such as the Occupational Therapists (OTs). De-regulating this healthcare profession will result in the unintended consequence of creating a barrier for consumers to receive needed rehabilitation treatment by OTs. Insurance carriers require and only reimburse for health care services provided by licensed or registered practitioners.

We request your support of this HD1. I can be reached at 382-2655 if further information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII**

Testimony by:
David A. Drews, PhD
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

Catholic Charities Hawaii is in opposition to the HB 2029, that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy licensure (HRS Chapter 451)). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapy licensure is not in the best interest of the people of Hawaii. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services.

Since 1947, Catholic Charities Hawaii services over 60,000 individuals each year, with over 30 different programs. Much of our staff are either licensed as an MFT or come from Marriage and Family Therapy backgrounds, and continue to do work with populations servicing the homeless, child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, domestic violence, sex abuse, and so forth. Licensure requirements help to uphold our practitioners to a high level of standard and ethics.

If Marriage and Family Therapy is no longer regulated, insurance carriers would no longer recognize Marriage and Family Therapists, and this would prevent clients from utilizing their health insurance to cover counseling services. This would be detrimental to our clients and cause financial hardships for them, especially in this current state of our economy.

On behalf of Catholic Charities Hawaii, we request to retain the language and definition of Marriage and Family Therapy (licensed in marriage and family therapy practice pursuant to Chapter 451)), and not have the licensure de-regulated. Please contact me at (808) 527-4905 for further inquiries. Thank you for the opportunity for our agency to submit our testimony.

Sincerely,

David A. Drews, PhD
Division Administrator
Catholic Charities Hawaii



Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy



(808) 291-5321
(808) 622-4971

P.O. Box 2120
Honolulu, HI 96805-2120

hamft.admin@gmail.com
www.hamft.net

HAMFT networks, educates, and advocates for the enrichment of our members, the advancement of our profession, and the health of our community.

Testimony by:
Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T., and I am President of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). HAMFT represents 208 licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs); and a total of 315 members in the State of Hawaii. MFTs work in a variety of agencies and settings within our state including, but not limited to: the Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; active duty military and their families; U.S. Department of Transportation; rural areas; families and communities; hospital and clinic systems; substance abuse treatment centers; and mental health practices.

Marriage and Family Therapy is a science driven, research based profession comprised of mental health practitioners trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems. MFTs specialize in treating mental disorders within the context of relationships. MFTs work with the individual, couple, or family to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved.

The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a “core mental health profession” along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services including, but not limited to: 1. individual psychotherapy; 2. relationship counseling; 3.

family therapy; 4. work-related consultation; 5. substance abuse professional evaluations; 6. child custody evaluation; 7. school counseling; and more. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy.

We strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. However, with de-regulation, there is the potential for Marriage and Family Therapists who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii and, in the worst case scenario, an individual could establish her/his own practice and claim that they provide Marriage and Family Therapy services; when, in fact, she/he may not have the professional qualifications which could clearly lead to consumer harm. Further, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.

MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.

The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.

MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (3). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (4). Including Family Therapists in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.

MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

Finally, if you, or a family member, had a family crisis, potential relationship breakup, family substance abuse problem, or adolescent emergency; your physician would refer you for marriage and family therapy services. The MFT would work with you on the resolution of your relationship or family problems. However, if this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated. Major insurance carriers, such as HMSA and AlohaCare, along with Medicaid; and other 3rd party payers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 987-7070 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T., C.E.A.P., S.A.P., C.A.I.,
HAMFT President

1. William J. Doherty and Deborah S. Simmons, "Clinical Practice Patterns of Marriage and Family Therapists: A National Survey of Therapists and Clients" *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy* (Alexandria, VA AAMFT 1996) 18.
2. Henrick Harwood, "Training of Behavioral Health Practitioners to Address Substance Use Disorders," *Family Therapy Magazine*, November-December 2003, 40-42.
3. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients," *Family Therapy Magazine*, November-December 2004, 33.
4. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients," *Family Therapy Magazine*, November-December 2004, 32.
5. David Hartley, et al., *State Licensure Laws and the Mental Health Professions: Implications for the Rural Mental Health Workforce* (Portland, ME: Maine Rural Health Research Center, University of Southern Maine, 2002) 8.



Uniform Law Commission
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COMMISSIONERS ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

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February 18, 2010

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair, House Committee on Finance
39th Representative District
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: H.B. 2029, H.D. 1

Written Only
Testimony on H.B. 2029, H.D. 1

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill No. 2029, H.D.1. We respectfully oppose the portion of this bill (section 4) that repeals the Uniform Athlete Agents Act, which is codified as chapter 481E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and respectfully request that the bill be amended to delete all references to chapter 481E.

The Uniform Athlete Agents Act provides for the uniform registration, certification, and a mandated criminal history disclosure of sports agents seeking to represent student athletes who are or may be eligible to participate in intercollegiate sports, imposes specified contract terms on these agreements to the benefit of student athletes, and provides educational institutions with a right to notice along with a civil cause of action for damages resulting from a breach of specified duties. The act has been passed in 41 states, and adopted in Hawaii in 2007. Nationally, the ULC has enjoyed the cooperation and assistance of the NCAA, and the U.S. Congress expressly indicated its encouragement of states to adopt the act in its passage of the federal Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act (15 U.S.C. 7801 *et seq.*, §7807) to provide state protection for student athletes and institutions, and regulation of agents.

With the proliferation of professional sport franchises in the United States, and the immense sums now paid to athletes for commercial endorsement contracts, it is no surprise that the commercial marketplace in which athlete agents operate has become very competitive. And while maximizing the income of one's clients is certainly a sound business practice, the recruitment of a student-athlete while he or she is still enrolled in an educational institution may cause substantial eligibility or other problems for both the student and the school, especially where the athlete is not aware of the implications of signing the agency agreement or where agency is established without notice to the athletic director of the school. The problem becomes even more acute where an unscrupulous agent misleads a student. The agency business is not confined to a single state, and professional agents operate and interact with students and universities across the country, including Hawaii. Where agent registration and disclosure requirements vary greatly from state to state, it can cause confusion among student athletes, athletic departments, educational institutions, and the agents themselves, with potentially very harmful results.

The act requires agents to disclose their training, experience, and education, whether they or an

associate have been convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude, have been administratively or judicially determined to have made false or deceptive representations, have had their agent's license denied, suspended, or revoked in any state, or have been the subject or cause of any sanction, suspension, or declaration of ineligibility. Agents are required to maintain executed contracts and other specified records for a period of five years, including information about represented individuals and recruitment expenditures, which would be open to inspection by the state.

While the act imposes disclosure, registration, and record-keeping requirements on the athlete agents themselves, those who are issued a valid certificate of registration or licensure in one state are able to cross-file that application (or a renewal thereof) in all other states that have adopted the act. This aspect of the act at once simplifies regulatory compliance for agents, while at the same time facilitates the ability of all jurisdictions to obtain dependable, uniform information on an agent's professional conduct in other states. With near-nationwide adoption, the process is an effective and familiar one for both regulators and the regulated community.

Because the potential loss of intercollegiate eligibility is a serious and often unexpected effect of entering an athlete-agent contract, the act provides student-athletes with a statutory right to cancel an agency contract within 14 days after the contract is signed without penalty. In addition, athlete-agent contracts subject to the act are required to disclose the amount and method of calculating the agent's compensation, the name of any unregistered person receiving compensation because the athlete signed the agreement, a description of reimbursable expenses and services to be provided, as well as warnings disclosing the cancellation and notice requirements imposed under the act.

The potential loss of a student-athlete's eligibility is also a serious concern for athletic programs at educational institutions, and consistent reports of universities facing consequences for improper activity have populated the media in recent years. Accordingly, the act requires both the agent and the student-athlete to give notice of the contract to the athletic director of the affected educational institution within 72 hours of signing the agreement, or before the athlete's next scheduled athletic event, whichever occurs first. Where applicable, the agent must also provide this notice to a school where he or she has reasonable grounds to believe the athlete intends to enroll. The act provides educational institutions with a statutory right of action for damages, including losses and expenses incurred as a result of the educational institution being penalized, disqualified, or suspended from participation by an athletics association (ie. the NCAA) or conference, or as a result of reasonable self-imposed disciplinary actions taken to mitigate sanctions, as well as associated party costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

Finally, the act prohibits athlete agents from providing materially false or misleading information or making a materially false promise or representation with the intent of inducing a student athlete to enter into an agency contract, or from furnishing anything of value to a student athlete or another person before that athlete enters into an agency contract. The act provides that an athlete agent may not intentionally initiate contact with a student athlete unless registered under this act, and may not refuse or willfully fail to retain or permit inspection of required records, fail to register where required, provide materially false or misleading information in an application for registration or renewal thereof, predate or postdate an agency contract, or fail to notify a student athlete (prior to signing) that signing an agency contract may make the student athlete ineligible to participate as a student athlete in that sport. The act imposes criminal penalties for violations of these prohibitions.

The Uniform Athlete Agents Act provides extremely important protections for student-athletes and the

educational institutions where they compete, creates a uniform body of agent registration information for use by state agencies, simplifies the regulatory environment faced by legitimate sports agents, and provides public and private recourse against unscrupulous actors. It has become part of the core foundation for agent regulation throughout the nation, and Hawaii should retain this legislation for the benefit of its student-athlete, university, and agent communities.

If I can be of further assistance, or answer any further questions, please contact me at 312-450-6621 or kieran.marion@nccusl.org.

Sincerely,

Kieran P. Marion
Uniform Law Commission (NCCUSL)

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 19, 2010

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: HB 2029 HD1 – Relating to Professions and Occupations

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 2029 HD1 which would repeal the state oversight for marriage and family therapists (MFTs). HMSA has concerns with this measure.

Currently, as part of our credentialing process, we require MFTs who wish to participate with HMSA to demonstrate they comply with state regulatory oversight. We believe that the state sanctioned recognition requirement adds an additional layer of scrutiny to health care providers working in allied health professions which assists in ensuring quality while protecting our members. The removal of the statutes overseeing the licensure and recognition of MFTs could end up being detrimental to consumers and would also remove the ability of these individuals to meet current HMSA credentialing standards. If they cannot meet the credentialing standards, HMSA will not contract with these providers, negatively impacting access to care for some members.

In 2007 the legislature saw fit to award MFTs licensure status and add them to the section of statute regarding mental health and substance abuse benefit coverage. The ability of MFTs to provide these types of services in the community increases access to some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

We believe that it is in the state's best interest to continue to hold these providers to the same regulatory gold standard as other health professionals in the community and therefore request that their licensing statute remain intact. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President
Government Relations



National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

February 18, 2010

TO: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
And members of the House Finance Committee

FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW
National Association of Social Workers- Hawaii Chapter

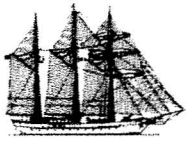
RE: HB 2029, HD1 Relating to Professions and Occupations- **OPPOSE**

Chair Oshiro and members of the House Finance Committee. I am Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter. I am testifying in **OPPOSITION** to HB 2029, HD1 Relating to Professions and Occupations.

Historically, the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter (NASW) has supported the licensing of Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs). We recognize them as one of the five core mental health professionals acknowledged by federal statutes along with social workers, psychiatric nurses, psychologists and psychiatrists. MFTs have worked with social workers to provide needed services in the community. Their presence as a licensed profession enhances the access to mental health services needed especially in rural areas.

The law to regulate MFTs was passed in 1998 to protect consumers. Repealing their license will leave consumers with no oversight over practitioners who are unethical or do not meet the qualifications established by the profession. MFTs who do harm to their clients will not have to be accountable for their practice and will not suffer any sanctions. This is not in the best interest of the public.

We urge you to hold this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



MARIMED FOUNDATION



45-021 Likeke Place • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744 • (808) 236-2288 ext. 279 • Fax (808) 236-0576 • www.marimed.org

Testimony by:

Robert Craig Norton

Human Director of Personnel and Training

Marimed Foundation

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010

Room 308 – 11:00 am

Agenda Item #2

Position: OPPOSITION to bill HB2029

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

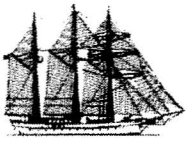
As Director of Personnel and Training for Marimed Foundation, I would like to express opposition to this bill. Marimed Foundation provides necessary and valuable services to the State of Hawaii. We provide residential care for high risk adolescent males through contracts with the State Department of Health Child and Adolescent and Mental Health Division.

Marriage and Family therapist are critical members of our system of care here at Marimed Foundation. Our clinical director is a Licensed Marriage and Family therapist and thus is qualified by CAMHD to provide services to youth in their system.

It is essential to our contract with the State Department of Health that Marriage and Family Therapist continue to be licensed in the State of Hawaii.

As the Chair and the rest of the House Finance Committee can see from the below information, Licensing Marriage and Family Therapy is considered to be a national standard practiced by all other states. My hope is that the State of Hawaii continues to honor the much needed work in our communities by keeping Marriage and Family Therapist Licensing.

- MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.
- MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family



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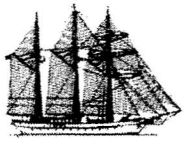


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relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

- MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.
- The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.
- MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (3). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (4). Including Family Therapists in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.
- MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

Aloha,
Robert Craig Norton



MARIMED FOUNDATION



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Testimony by:

Robert Craig Norton

4745C West Ekahi Way

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010

Room 308 – 11:00 am

Agenda Item #2

Position: OPPOSITION to bill HB2029

Aloha Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

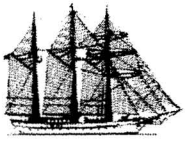
I am a Marriage and Family Therapist Student at Argosy University. I am two months away from graduation. I chose Marriage and Family Therapy after evaluating other similar degrees based on several factors.

1. Its theories and approaches are firmly grounded in scientific research
2. A Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy will allow me to pursue Doctoral interest in the future.
3. The State of Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.
4. Last, but most importantly, I firmly believed at the time, and I am absolutely certain now, that the field of Marriage and Family Therapy trains and equips professionals to be "therapist."

As someone who is very near to graduation, I have aspirations of providing private practice services to clients in our communities. I have over 17 years of experience in the Human Service field and along with excellent an excellent educational program at Argosy, I feel that I will provide effective and much needed service to our communities.

My hope is that the Chair and the rest of the committee not pass this bill.

- MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.
- MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists. Clients



MARIMED FOUNDATION

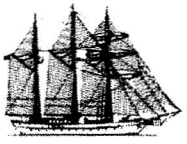


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report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

- MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.
- The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.
- MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (3). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (4). Including Family Therapists in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.
- MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

Aloha,
Robert Craig Norton



MARIMED FOUNDATION



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**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010**

**Friday, February 19, 2010
11:00 a.m.**

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2029, H.D. 1, RELATING TO
PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS.**

**TO THE HONORABLE MARCUS R. OSHIRO, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

My name is Lance Marugame, and I am the Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Board in strong opposition to House Bill No. 2029, H.D. 1, Relating to Professions and Occupations.

One of the purposes of this bill is to repeal the regulatory programs for barbers and cosmetologists.

The Board strongly disagrees with this proposal to repeal Chapters 438 and 439 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Doing so will result in public harm by opening the door to fraud, incompetence, and public distrust in barbers and cosmetologists. Both licensing laws provide the Board with the authority to establish training standards, entry-level competence, scope of practice, and disciplinary standards, which are essential parts of effective consumer protection. The licensing laws provide for the necessary training and competence, with emphasis on safety and sanitation, before licensees are able to perform

barbering, hairdressing, skin care, and nail technology services directly on clients without supervision.

Hairdressers and barbers are not just cutting hair; they are coloring, permanent waving, highlighting, bleaching, straightening, and providing other services that utilize potentially harmful chemicals. These chemicals can cause chemical burns if not properly applied by trained, competent professionals. Nail technicians are not just applying nail polish, but are using electronic nail buffers and sanders that require skills and full knowledge of health and safety guidelines that must be strictly followed in order to prevent injury and mitigate the spread of diseases. Estheticians are not just applying makeup and doing facial massages, but are using products with cosmeceutical ingredients such as retinoid, glycolic acid (AHA), and specialized machines that manipulate different parts of the customer's face and body. Without proper training and skills proven by licensure, and assessed by examination, no one should be allowed to provide these types of services to the public. The chemicals, products, and specialized equipment commonly used in this industry can seriously and permanently harm consumers when applied or utilized by inadequately trained, unlicensed individuals. The health and safety risks to the public are compounded exponentially when these services are provided without any regulatory oversight.

Sunset reports issued by the Legislative Auditor (most recently in January 2001) have recommended the deregulation of the barbering and cosmetology occupations, as well as beauty shops, barber shops, beauty schools, and beauty

instructors. The recommendations in these sunset reports have never been adopted by the legislature, but have consistently been rebutted and rejected by legislators who chose not to adopt the auditor's recommendations but to acknowledge the necessity of regulating these service areas and providers, based upon the very real potential for jeopardizing consumer safety.

This position has also been consistently held by various national and regional entities affiliated with the beauty industry that are stakeholders in regulating the industry for public protection, such as the National-Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology, the National Coalition of Esthetics & Related Professional Associations, and the National Association of Barber Boards of America. This committee may have received testimony in opposition to this measure from a number of these stakeholders.

In addition, repealing the statutes that regulate barbering and cosmetology in Hawaii would adversely impact State and federal regulators that rely on licensing information to carry out their duties and responsibilities. The State Department of Education ("DOE") relies upon the Board's training standards to determine appropriate course curriculum for students, as well as the training standards for licensed barbers or beauty instructors to become teachers for barber or beauty schools. The Board's licensing laws require that barber and beauty shops comply with the sanitation standards of the State Department of Health ("DOH"). And, in order to comply with the federal Food and Drug Administration's ("FDA") "for professional use only" labeling, the barber and

beauty supply retailers rely on the Board's barber and beauty operator licenses to ensure that only qualified practitioners are able to purchase such labeled products and equipment. Repealing the barber and cosmetology licensing laws will certainly undermine these safeguards administered by the DOE, the DOH, and the FDA.

As you may know, all fifty states require licensure for some or all services provided by barbers and cosmetologists. If this measure is enacted, Hawaii, which began licensing beauty operators in 1929 and barbers in 1947, would be the only state without licensing regulations for these occupations. Because of this long history of licensing for both barbering and cosmetology, the public readily accepts and recognizes these licenses as a standard of professionalism in the community. Therefore, deregulation will result in public outcry and concern because barbering and cosmetology services would be performed directly on clients without statutory authority to ensure that practitioners meet entry level training and competency standards.

To satisfy the growing desire for more varied and advanced types of services not just for beautification but for essential skin and hair health, and not just by women but increasingly considered by men to be an important component of good health, the consuming public will continue to seek out the competent licensed professional who will work together with the client for optimal wellbeing and appearance. Preserving the licensure of these professionals will ensure the public's safety and protection.

In closing, the Board strongly voices its opposition to House Bill No. 2029, H.D. 1, and respectfully requests that it be held. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

**TESTIMONY OF THE
COMMISSION TO PROMOTE UNIFORM LEGISLATION**

**ON H.B. No. 2029, H.D. 1
RELATING TO PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS.**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Friday, February 19, 2010, at 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

(For further information, please contact KEN TAKAYAMA, Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation (587-0655))

WEB: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>

Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2029, H.D.1.

The State Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation strongly opposes the portion of this bill (section 4) that repeals the Uniform Athlete Agents Act, which is codified as chapter 481E, Hawaii Revised Statutes. We respectfully request that the bill be amended to delete all references to chapter 481E.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) developed the Uniform Athlete Agents Act at the request of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) as part of an effort to prevent unscrupulous athlete agents from preying on student athletes--and the concomitant problems of athletes losing their athletic eligibility and educational institutions having their programs sanctioned. A summary of the Act is attached.

Unlike other professional and vocational regulatory measures:

(1) This is not a case where the practitioners sought to have themselves regulated because they believed it advantageous to themselves;

(2) There is no regulatory board or commission that needs to be supported;

(3) The program is already handled directly by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;

(4) This is therefore not a situation where the regulated persons are likely to come out in support of the program;

(5) Student athletes and their families, the prospective beneficiaries of the legislation, are not an organized community.

Unlike other regulatory programs, there would appear to be relatively little work involved. There are no examinations to administer. The level of regulation is mild. Athlete agents are only required to register, and the number of people regulated is small. It is therefore difficult to imagine that the repeal of this law will generate any appreciable cost savings.

Reflecting the national scope of the problem, Hawaii is now one of 41 jurisdictions that have enacted the Uniform Athlete Agents Act. We are concerned that repeal of the law could make Hawaii a destination for those seeking to avoid the need to disclose their activities publicly.

For the foregoing reasons, we request that H.B. No. 2029, H.D.1 be amended to delete references to chapter 481E, HRS, the Uniform Athlete Agents Act.



Uniform Law Commissioners

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws

SUMMARY

Uniform Athlete Agents Act

With the proliferation of professional sport franchises in the United States, and the immense sums now paid to athletes for commercial endorsement contracts, it is no surprise that the commercial marketplace in which athlete agents operate has become very competitive. And while maximizing the income of one's clients is certainly the "American way" (as well as good business practice), the recruitment of a student-athlete while he or she is still enrolled in an educational institution may cause substantial eligibility or other problems for both the student and the school, especially where the athlete is not aware of the implications of signing the agency agreement or where agency is established without notice to the athletic director of the school. The problem becomes even more acute where an unscrupulous agent misleads a student. While several states have enacted legislation to address these issues, agent registration and disclosure requirements vary greatly from state to state, causing confusion among student athletes, athletic departments, educational institutions, and the agents themselves.

The Uniform Athlete Agents Act provides for the uniform registration, certification, and a mandated criminal history disclosure of sports agents seeking to represent student athletes who are or may be eligible to participate in intercollegiate sports, imposes specified contract terms on these agreements to the benefit of student athletes, and provides educational institutions with a right to notice along with a civil cause of action for damages resulting from a breach of specified duties.

The act requires agents to disclose their training, experience, and education, whether they or an associate have been convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude, have been administratively or judicially determined to have made false or deceptive representations, have had their agent's license denied, suspended, or revoked in any state, or have been the subject or cause of any sanction, suspension, or declaration of ineligibility. Agents are required to maintain executed contracts and other specified records for a period of five years, including information about represented individuals and recruitment expenditures, which would be open to inspection by the state.

While the act imposes significant disclosure, registration, and record-keeping requirements on athlete agents, those who are issued a valid certificate of registration or licensure in one state would be able to cross-file that application (or a renewal thereof) in all other states that have adopted the act. This aspect of the act at once simplifies regulatory compliance for agents, while at the same time facilitates the ability of all jurisdictions to obtain dependable, uniform information on an agent's professional conduct in other states.

Because the potential loss of intercollegiate eligibility is a serious, and often unexpected, effect of entering an athlete-agent contract, the act provides student-athletes with a statutory right to cancel an agency contract within 14 days after the contract is signed without penalty. In addition, athlete-agent contracts subject to the act are required to disclose the amount and method of calculating the agent's compensation, the name of any unregistered person receiving compensation because the athlete signed the agreement, a description of reimbursable expenses and services to be provided, as well as warnings disclosing the cancellation and notice requirements imposed under the act.

The potential loss of a student-athlete's eligibility is also a serious concern for athletic programs at educational institutions. Accordingly, the act requires both the agent and the student-athlete to give notice of the contract to the athletic director of the affected educational institution within 72 hours of signing the agreement, or before the athlete's next scheduled athletic event, whichever occurs first. Where applicable,

the agent must also provide this notice to a school where he or she has reasonable grounds to believe the athlete intends to enroll. The act would also provide educational institutions with a statutory right of action against an athlete agent or former student athlete (several, but not joint, liability) for damages, including losses and expenses incurred as a result of the educational institution being penalized, disqualified, or suspended from participation by an athletics association or conference, or as a result of reasonable self-imposed disciplinary actions taken to mitigate sanctions, as well as associated party costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

Finally, the act prohibits athlete agents from providing materially false or misleading information or making a materially false promise or representation with the intent of inducing a student athlete to enter into an agency contract, or from furnishing anything of value to a student athlete or another person before that athlete enters into an agency contract. The act provides that an athlete agent may not intentionally initiate contact with a student athlete unless registered under this act, and may not refuse or willfully fail to retain or permit inspection of required records, fail to register where required, provide materially false or misleading information in an application for registration or renewal thereof, predate or postdate an agency contract, or fail to notify a student athlete (prior to signing) that signing an agency contract may make the student athlete ineligible to participate as a student athlete in that sport. The act would impose criminal penalties for violations of these prohibitions.

The Uniform Athlete Agents Act provides important protections for student-athletes and the educational institutions where they compete, creates a uniform body of agent registration information for use by state agencies, and simplifies the regulatory environment faced by legitimate sports agents.

© Uniform Law Commission
111 N. Wabash Ave., Suite 1010
Chicago, Illinois 60602

tel: (312) 450-6600 | fax: (312) 450-6601

Community Empowerment Services

1110 University Ave. #401
Honolulu, HI 96826 942-7800

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
OPPOSED

February 17, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and to vote against its passage within your committee.

I am the Chief Operating Officer for Community Empowerment Services (CES), we are contracted as a purchase of service provider with the Department of Health, Adult Mental Health Division, serving Adults with serious mental illness.

CES utilizes Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists in our daily scope of work. Our clients see MFT's for therapy, we employ Masters level therapists who are interning for their MFT license, and we employ a licensed MFT as our Clinical Director, as the State requires we hire a "Qualified Mental Health Professional."

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.
3. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.
4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration and opportunity to testify.

Aliman Sears, COO, Community Empowerment Services

Coleman Connolly, MFT

1031 Maunaihi Place #1001
Honolulu, HI 96822
Ph. 386-2725
cconnolly@catholiccharitieshawaii.org

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 17, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

In my capacity as Program Director for the Comprehensive Counseling & Support Services Voluntary Case Management Unit (VCMU) at Catholic Charities Hawaii I supervise a team of professional Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists who provide differential response services contracted by the Department of Human Services (DHS), Child Welfare Services (CWS) branch. In addition, I am in the process of starting a private practice and have contracted with HMSA, TRICARE, and UHA to provide Marriage and Family Therapy services to individuals and families in our community.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Coleman Connolly, MFT

Cynthia Galiano, M.S.

PO Box 523
Kealahou, HI 96750
808-938-9971 cynthia.1658@yahoo.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 17, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

As a mother of 4 children who has experienced divorce I have found having Licensed MFT's valuable as a Mental Health Professional resource. Just a few years ago the graduate training was titled **Marriage, Family & Child Counseling**. I believe since MFT's are first trained in conducting psychotherapy and then as a sub-specialty they receive additional training in providing child and family therapy that they are the best suited for providing psychotherapy services for children. Three of my four children have received therapeutic services from Licensed MFT's and have significantly benefited from it. They gained significantly improved coping skills which has enabled to steer clear of drugs, succeed academically, and become good citizens.

As a licensed MFT I provide an array of Mental Health Services not **just** "marriage counseling". I have been educated and trained to assess mental illness in accordance with the DSMIV. Furthermore, I have been extensively trained by other MFT's, LCSW's, Clinical Psychologists, and Psychiatrists to effectively provide psychotherapy treatment services. I work with adults and children suffering from trauma, depression, anxiety, bi-polar disorder, personality disorders, eating disorders, substance abuse and other addictions.

It is unclear to me how it is MFT's have been singled out from other Master Level Mental Health Professionals and have been included in this list of unrelated professions being targeted for losing licensure status.

One possible conclusion is this was drafted by persons not having sufficient knowledge about the mental health field, the various types of providers within, and exactly what MFT's do. As stated earlier, they are not just "marriage counselors". We are trained to provide psychotherapy as equally as LCSW's and then have supplemental coursework on working with family systems.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Cynthia M. Galiano

Susan Lulow, Ph.D., M.F.T.

2575 S.Kihei Rd. G307
Kihei, HI.96753
(808) 879-2022
slulow@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed

February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist and Child Psychoanalyst, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I practice as a Marriage and Family Therapist on Maui, treating many couples and families in great need of my services. In addition, my Ph.D. in Child Psychoanalysis allows me to do in depth work with children and families with very serious problems. My patients could not possibly afford to see me without insurance, which my license as a M.F.T., allows them to do.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Lulow, Ph.D. M.F.T.

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist (Therapy Intern, Student, Friend, etc), I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

(State your personal experience, what you do, or what MFTs have done for you)

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting **against** HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kai La Hansen

Bessie Estonactoc, MFT
Harmony Counseling LLC

319 A North Cane St.
Wahiawa, HI 96786
808-7535370
Email: besto@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist, I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I have been licensed for almost four years and currently have a full-time practice in Wahiawa. I service individuals and families on the island of Oahu who are either local residents or military dependents individually or with their family. Many of the clients who have initially come in with their emotional and mental pain have been able to learn to cope and heal from these pains thus leading a more peaceful and productive life. My education and skills have allowed me to work in a field that I have passion doing and I would like to continue to serve others in this capacity as I see my work as an MFT of value to the community.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bessie Estonactoc, MFT
Harmony Counseling LLC

Jeannie Kuan Yee Chan LLC.

98-211 Pali Momi St. Suite 635, Aiea, HI 96701

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 612, Pearl City, HI 96782

Tel: 808.223.7374

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Testimony for House Finance Committee

Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.

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Opposed

Copies needed: 2

February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

Before I was eligible to sit for the licensing exam for this highly clinical field of MFT, I attended rigorous training and equipping in graduate school to obtain a master's degree, which is the minimal requirement to be on the path of licensure; and fulfilling two full years of post-graduate internship clinical and clinical supervision. That training and credentialing process was crucial in ensuring that my clinical skills were meeting the professional and ethical standards in serving my clients. Since I started practicing as a licensed MFT, I have been able to serve many individuals, couples and families who were experiencing depression, anxiety, relational issues, life transitions, resolving grief, unhealthy codependency and other mental disorders. Since I am also fluent in Chinese language and dialects, I have been able to help immigrant individuals and families whom are often underserved in the mental health field. There have been many times I was part of the treatment team working collaboratively with the patient and his or her psychiatrist and primary care physician to provide more comprehensive care. **The people of Hawaii deserve to be served by only practitioners who have been trained, credentialed and are committed to uphold the highest clinical and ethical standards.**

As a practitioner who is purposed to meet the increasing needs of the people of Hawaii, and values the ethical standards of this profession, I believe that MFTs in Hawaii should be regulated like its counterparts in all other states in United States of America.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.

3. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.
4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Chan, MC, MFT

Kirsten S. Ralston, MFT, NCC
PO Box 10528
Honolulu, HI 96816
808-358-4486

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist (HI license #131), I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I am an MFT in private practice in Honolulu. Since the beginning of 2010, I have received an average of 3 calls per week from Hawaii citizens who have chosen my name from a list of providers, based on my specialization as a Marriage and Family Therapist. Often potential clients are given a list of therapists from their health insurance company, and rely on their insurance carrier to cover the majority of cost of their therapy sessions. Without regulation, insurance companies would not reimburse MFTs for their valued services; therefore making accessing services challenging for many who cannot afford to pay out-of-pocket. Additionally, regulation and licensure upholds a standard of training and competence, which is essential to ensuring quality of care that Hawaii residents expect and deserve.

I have worked with clients who have benefitted from my MFT specialization in the following ways:

- Improved marital satisfaction
- Increased competency in parenting and peaceful problem solving within the family
- Improved functioning at work, related to better communication skills, frustration tolerance, increased energy and motivation (decreased depression and anxiety)
- Improved school functioning, related to increased attendance, greater focus and productivity, understanding of pro-social behavior with peers and faculty
- Decreased interpersonal violence

The above list is just a sampling of benefits gained via mental health services provided by one MFT. Our field is comprised of talented and experienced therapists who are trained to work with individuals, children, couples and families—providing PREVENTATIVE services to Hawaii residents.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.

3. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.
4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

I ask for your support by voting against HB2029. If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number printed above. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kirsten S. Ralston, MFT, NCC
808-358-4486

GARY AUGUSTIN, PhD, LMFT
(808) 381-2675 augusting002@gmail.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I have been practicing as a MFT since coming to Hawaii in 1997. I work at a not for profit company which provides services to those who are unable to pay for services. I was recently contracted by Kuakini Hospital to provide mental health services on the SNF unit because no Psychologists or MSWs were willing to go to their facility to provide services.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients. Currently the Medicaid Expand program has had difficulties finding providers for services and rely upon many MFTs for services. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.
3. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.
4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.
6. MFTs have been acknowledged by this legislative body as providing necessary mental health services in Hawaii.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting **against** HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary Augustin, PhD, LMFT

Laurette DeMandel-Schaller, M.F.T., S.A.P., Ph.D
Court Appointed: Custody Evaluator, Guardian ad Litem, Senior Mediator

Private Practice at Lihue Office on Kaua'i
2975 Haleko Road, Suite 307

CALIFORNIA

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PRINCEVILLE OFFICE, P.O. BOX 1071
HANALEI, HAWAII 96714
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dr.la@aloha.net

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed

February 17, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist in private practice for over 25 years, in Hawaii and California, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and request that you vote against its passage within your committee.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for Licensed MFTs. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as within families and communities.
3. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and related health problems.
4. MFTs provide excellent mental health services. Over 98 % of clients of Marriage and Family Therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.

(Page 2: from Dr. Schaller: AGAINST H.B. 2029)

5. Marriage Family Therapists are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

MFTs provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by VOTING AGAINST HB2029.

Thank you very much for your consideration. If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Mahalo Nui Loa.

Respectfully,

Laurette DeMandel-Schaller, MFT, SAP, Ph.D.

Court Appointed CE, GAL, Senior Mediator
MFT Ethics Committee Chairperson,
MFT Legislative Committee Chairperson,
Voting Member, Family Court Interventions, SR-10
Working Group, Hawaii State Legislature
Kaua'i Community Children's Council,
Kaua'i Resident for over 22 years.

Nancy M. Sallee, M.A., MFT
Orchid Isle Psychotherapy
79-7460 Mamalahoa Highway
Mango Court Suite 214
Kealahou, Hawai'i 96750
Orchid_Isle_Psychotherapy@yahoo.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee

Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.

Measure #: HB2029

Opposed

Copies needed: 2

February 17, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist, I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

For the past eight (8) years I have provided psychotherapy as a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in both Hawaii and California. I maintain a private practice in Kealahou, HI. in which I serve all demographics of the population on the Big Island ranging geographically from Kohala and Waimea in the north to Na'alehu and Pahala in the south. Fifty percent of my clients are children and most of them are victims of abuse. Those children are in foster care because they have been sexually assaulted, physically neglected, emotionally abused and/or witnessed horrific domestic violence. I work closely with Department of Human Services – Child Welfare Services staff and the Courts to ensure these children will receive the treatment and legal support needed to help them heal from the abuse.

These children and many of my other clients depend on Quest healthcare insurance to enable them to receive mental health treatment. As their therapist, it is my responsibility to continuously upgrade my training and expertise in order to retain professional competency and licensure which ensures an excellent standard of care. It is essential that the Hawai'i Board of Psychology continue to oversee the licensing and professional standard of care provided by marriage and family therapists who treat the residents of our state.

As the unemployment rate rises across our state and both individual and family resources have diminished, there is an even greater need for consistent, competent mental health care coverage. Quest and all other HMOs in Hawai'i , i.e., AlohaCare, HMSA, UHA, HMAA, HMA, Summerlin, TriCare/TriWest, EverCare and Ohana HealthCare, do not recognize unlicensed MFTs as eligible mental health providers for their companies. Without healthcare coverage, most Hawaiian residents would be unable to afford to pay for their mental health care out-of- pocket.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.

MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.

MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the

federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.

MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii . I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy M. Saltee, M.A., MFT

Joy Quick, MA, MFT
1001 Bishop St., Suite 400, Honolulu, HI 96813
808.791.5222
sjquick@argosy.edu

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and ask that you vote against its passage within your committee.

I am currently the Interim Chair of the MFT department at Argosy University Hawaii, where we have been training students to become marriage and family therapists since 1999. Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

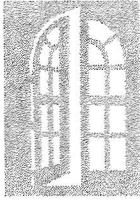
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4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joy Quick, MA, MFT,



HEATHER ROYCE INC.

1826 Wili Pa Loop, Suite #7 ~ Wailuku, Hawaii ~ 96732
(808) 244-8433 ~ ideall@hawaiiantel.net

Testimony by: Heather Bartlemus, MFT
HB2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing- Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308- 11:00am
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 17, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Heather Bartlemus and I am a licensed marriage and family therapist in Hawaii. I am the President and owner of Heather Royce Inc., a Maui based psychotherapy and consulting service. Heather Royce Inc. provides psychotherapeutic and consulting services to individuals, couples, families, schools, and health care systems within the state. I provide these services as a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT). I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

As a licensed marriage and family therapist, I provide services to a variety of consumers through community agencies as well as many of the health insurance companies including but limited to HMSA, Aloha Care, HMAA, HMA, and UHA. I also provide advocacy and consultation services for children with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities within the public school system and private sector.

Now more than every, families are in need of marriage and family therapy to make it through these difficult times due to the extreme economic crisis and subsequent hardships. If this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated. Major insurance carriers, as those mentioned above; and other 3rd party payers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals. If marriage and family therapists were no longer licensed in Hawaii, then all these families would be unable to receive quality health care from qualified specialists, since most could not afford to pay privately.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.
3. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.
4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029. I respectfully urge you to remove the language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) from HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Heather Bartlemus, M.A., M.C.-M.F.T.
President
Hawaii License MFT #167

Bethany Crowley

Your address, phone #, email address

808-741-2659

bcrowley@cfs-hawaii.org

Testimony for House Finance Committee

Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.

Measure #: HB2029

Opposed

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February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I am a Marriage and Family Therapist currently employed at Child and Family Service. The families that I work with are high risk (substance abuse, past physical abuse or sexual abuse etc.) and the youth have been removed from their homes. As a Marriage and Family Therapist I provide the therapy services needed in order for the families to heal and eventually to obtain the goal of family re-unification when appropriate. Without the special training that MFTs receive, subtle but dangerous family dynamics may go unnoticed.

Further, I treat eating disorders in the context of the family. As you know there are many addictions that become family diseases and treating the individual is not always effective. Family therapy therefore, is the most effective way to deal with the addiction as family dynamics plays a significant role in the individuals' choice of coping. MFTs are the only mental health professional that receive special training in their programs to work with families with mental health issues.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bethany Crowley, MFT

Liane Murai

647 Kunawai Lane #606
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 358-2700
lmurai@apshealthcare.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist (Therapy Intern, Student, Friend, etc), I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I am a student in the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Argosy University as well as a care coordinator for an insurance carrier who provides both behavioral health care services and case management for adults who have been diagnosed with severe and mental illness. I have seen the value therapy has on both my clients as well as their families. Marriage and Family Therapist are trained to work with individuals within the context of their family, whether that is as a spouse, significant other, daughter, son, mother, father, etc. The family is vital to one's mental health as it provides the support, security and framework for the larger picture, the community. Marriage and Family Therapist understand this and are schooled in techniques to increase communication and understanding as well as decrease conflict. Marriage and Family Therapists provide a safe environment to address the core of issues presented by individuals and their families, while respecting each individually as well as the collective whole. Marriage and Family Therapists serve the community of families, elderly, adults, adolescents, children, and couples in Hawaii. We are specially trained to work and provide therapy with various cultures, populations, and needs.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

- MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
- MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.
- MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.
- MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
- MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Liane Murai

Alfred A. Sison, MA, MFT, PsyD
Individual, Couples, and Family Therapy
Hawaii State License #111
Marriage and Family Therapy

1188 Bishop Street, #1810, Honolulu, HI 96813
808-393-0320
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alspsy@gmail.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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February 17, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist, I am writing to express my **opposition** to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

My name is Alfred A. Sison, MA, MFT, PsyD. Since July 2004, I have been provided the opportunity to practice and develop my professional career as a marriage and family therapist in Hawaii; Hawaii License #111. With this license, I have been able to work and service several individuals, families, and children of local communities on four islands in our state of Hawaii. I have seen with my own eyes the needs that our communities must face on a daily basis. I have also seen how the techniques, therapy interventions, the ethical values, and models of marriage and family therapy practices can help our Hawaii communities. The practice of Marriage and Family Therapy has allowed me to reach out to those individuals in our Hawaii state communities who need therapeutic assistance and direction to facilitate change from symptoms of chronic and serious mental illness, address issues of domestic violence, sexual abuse, substance abuse, and child neglect. With my marriage and family therapy license, I have been able to service those individuals that have needed help to battle depression, anxiety issues, marital and family issues, and children with behavior and trauma issues. With my marriage and family therapy license I have been able to help those individuals from the Hawaii communities of the military forces, of students as well as staff of our Hawaii state department of education schools, individuals from our most affluent communities to those marginalized even in our own diverse state of Hawaii.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
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4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.

5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alfred A. Sison, MA, MFT, PsyD

Kalei Chandler-Ah Sing

430-D Hualani St
Kailua, HI 96734
808-225-9089
Kalei586@yahoo.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
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415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist (Therapy Intern, Student, Friend, etc), I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I just recently graduated from Chaminade University with my Masters in Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Counseling. At a young age I realized that I had the ability to connect with people on a personal level. By the time I was in High School I knew that my purpose in life was to help people work through their personal problems by simply allowing myself to be present in the moment with them without passing judgment. While attending graduate school I thrived on learning new theories and therapies techniques because I knew someday I would be out in the field working in my community and I wanted to make sure that I had the tools and the resources to allow me to be an effective therapist. If this bill is passed not only will the ramifications of this bill be detrimental to our families but all the Students and recent graduates will have wasted their time and money investing in a degree that will not be recognized.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
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4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kalei Chandler-Ah Sing

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed

February 18, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist (Therapy Intern, Student, Friend, etc), I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

The field of Marriage and Family Therapy is a very important one that is beneficial to the people of Hawaii. I understand this through both what I see in my clients as well as through personal experience. I grew up in a household where drugs were present and currently have family members that have mental health conditions. I understand the impact these issues have on a family and how important it was for my family to get the support it needed to get us through those difficult times. This is what got me into the behavioral health field. I was able to attend school and graduate with my Master's in Counseling Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy in 2002. Through my graduate level practicum at Queen's Medical Center, I was able to obtain a full time job as a Substance Abuse Counselor in their Day Treatment Services where I worked with clients who had both mental health and substance abuse conditions. This job experience allowed me the opportunity to obtain the direct client hours I needed to apply for my MFT license. To obtain my licensure I was required to pay for regular clinical supervision and complete my required direct client hours prior to me taking my licensing exam. In January 2009 I became a licensed MFT which allowed me to be promoted to a new position of Clinical Therapist. I continue to work at the Queen's Medical Center's Day Treatment Services with the dually diagnosed population. The majority of the clients I work with are involved with the legal system. They are on pretrial, probation, parole, have DUI charges, or are involved with CPS. I assist them in understanding their addictions, their behavior patterns, and encourage pro-social behaviors. I see them struggle with their addictions and I see the impact these addictions and behaviors have on their families. It is important that we not just treat the "identified patient," but also those around them. Treating the family as a whole is important because it allows family members to get the support they need, and assists them in learning how to support one another.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.
3. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are

- effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.
4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
 5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christina Lippert, MFT, CSAC

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 18, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I have been working as a Marriage and Family Therapist in a substance abuse treatment setting for many years. I have seen first hand the importance and need for Family Therapists in my work with this population. Substance abuse is devastating to our community. However, if we are able to treat the whole family and help each person recover emotionally and work together, we can save our community money and resources. For example, fewer children will be born to drug addicted mothers, communities will spend less on sending people to prison, fewer individuals will take up valuable time and money in the judicial system, there will be fewer people in need of medical resources due to addiction, and there is a decrease in crime in our communities. Treating the family is something that Marriage and Family Therapists are specially trained and licensed to do. We offer a unique and valuable service to the people of Hawaii. Our island culture values 'ohana. Family Therapists treat the 'ohana, often multiple generations at the same time. We offer a culturally sensitive alternative for families in need. I have seen, first hand, how Marriage and Family Therapy saves lives and helps our community.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ponichtera, LMFT
Clinical Director – Malama Family Recovery Center, Maui Hawaii

Julie Segawa

1374 Nuuanu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808)-585-5241
email: jsegawa@queens.org

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I pursued the field of Marriage and Family Therapist because I strongly believe the positive impact that this service has for couples, families and the community as a whole. I graduated with my Master's in Counseling Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy in June 2004. To obtain licensure I had to pay for clinical supervision and complete my direct client hours prior to sitting for the Marriage and Family Therapy License exam in not less than 2 years post-graduation from my Master's program. During this time I was fortunate to obtain a bachelor's level position as a Behavioral Health Associate at Queen's Medical Center Day Treatment Services in August 2005 where I was able to obtain experience within mental health servicing the Severely Mentally Ill and Dually Diagnosed population providing, individual, group, couples and family therapy. I obtained my Marriage and Family Therapy License in March 2007. Since the passing of vendorship in the state of Hawaii for licensed Marriage and Family Therapist I was promoted to the position of Clinical Therapist and in addition to continuing to provide services for Queen's Medical Center Day Treatment Services I am now providing Marriage and Family Therapy Services to Queen's Medical Center Counseling Services since December 2008- present. My professional career and livelihood is as a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist therefore I ask that HB2029 be opposed.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Segawa, MFT

Jack Estonactoc

95-1062 Wekiu St.
Milliani, HI 96789
estopar@yahoo.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
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February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As husband of a Marriage and Family Therapist, I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

My wife is a Marriage and Family Therapist on Oahu. She has a full-time private practice in Wahiawa. She is able to offer her services to both military personnel and local residents. Working in the field of marriage and family therapy has been a passion of hers and she does well helping others with personal and family problems. I was recently laid off from my company of 25 years where I was a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative. If my wife were unable to be a provider of mental health services, it would greatly impact our family's financial situation because she would be unable to earn a living as she has over the past 3 years.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
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5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jack Estonactoc

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist (Therapy Intern, Student, Friend, etc), I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

MFT's is another professional outlet to Hawaii residents if they have mental health issues. With a private practice it gives the customer another avenue of receiving help on the already burdened mental health practices and agencies that provide these services. Social Service agencies require that the therapists, parent educators and other entities have people with Master's Degrees. MFT's are able to fill in those voids and therefore provide services for families. If you do not recognize MFT, would that mean also there is no employment for these people who serve families and increase the burden already on a system.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Rosa

Robin Spencer

611 Iaukea St
Honolulu, HI 96813

533-4515
robinspencer611@yahoo.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist (Therapy Intern, Student, Friend, etc), I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I have spent more than \$50,000 getting trained as a marriage and family therapist and have volunteered since 2006 at Salvation Addiction Treatment Services doing couples and family counseling for those putting their lives back together after beginning recovery. This is professionally rewarding; the support these families gain from one another then keeps the addict from returning to drugs and the criminal lifestyle and other destruction that it generates. Also, the next generation that have been hurt or raised in the drug lifestyle get a second chance for healing and healthy nurturing.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin Spencer

Angelina Brown

91-202 Makahaiwaa Place
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707
808-744-2288

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a friend of a Marriage and Family Therapist, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

With education in the communication field, I recognize and applaud the work that Marriage and Family Therapists offer to a community that needs additional support during difficult times. Personal experience with being separated from my husband for an extended period of time led me to seek additional advice where I would have otherwise misunderstood certain communication situations.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Angelina Brown, MBA

Abby Halston

PO Box 15090 Honolulu, HI 96830
abbyhalston@yahoo.com
808-218-5494

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
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February 16, 2010

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and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

Current as a Behavioral Health Specialist I provide services any public education student with significant emotional and/or behavioral needs through prevention, early intervention, and intensive counseling services. School based behavioral health therapist role includes assessment, diagnostic services, classroom management strategies, techniques and methods, individualized behavioral supports, and interventions to facilitate attainment of the appropriate behavior(s).

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting **against** HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Abby Halston, MFT #189

Frank L Castagnetti, MA

PO Box 1221
Hilo, HI 96721

(808) 966-9869
(808) 990-9600

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a recent Argosy University graduate with my Masters of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

It is not in our state, consumers, nor my best interest to de-regulate government oversight, as currently provided by licensure, of Marriage and Family practitioners. In simplest terms, de-regulation allows anyone to provide Marriage and Family services without providing a shred of educational or experiential proof of competency. Further, this action would remove valuable and competent MFT services covered by most medical insurance carriers, placing consumers at greater risk by not being able to access professional care.

Licensure for any social service profession, including MFT and LSW, demands dedication and provides a level of competency that we, as professionals willingly strive to accomplish. To complete my graduate program, I have invested several years of arduous effort and hard work, financial sacrifice and time spent away from my ohana. My journey does not end there, as licensure requires 200 hours of post-graduate clinical supervision over a minimum 2 year period, followed by robust preparation before sitting for the actual licensing examination. I gladly accept this challenge while working full time and raising my ohana.

To allow de-regulation is to "dumb down" the high standards of care MFT provide.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting **against** HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank L. Castagnetti, MA

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and Members of the House Finance Committee
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415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As graduate from a Marriage and Family Therapy Program, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

Since graduating I have been working hard for the last few years to obtain my license and help serve the families of Hawaii. It has come at a cost and sacrifice to me, but a process I feel is well worth it. Working in the field I have seen how Marriage and Family Therapists are well trained and effective therapists who are very valuable to society. Especially in these hard economic times, they are a very valuable and affordable option given the impact they have in our homes, schools, communities, and even military and police department. Hawaii has come so far to catch up to the rest of the country that already recognizes this, please do not set our state back. Please oppose this bill and vote for continued progress.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting **against** HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shannon Tsubaki, MA

Karen Tan, ND, LAc
320 Ward Ave, Suite 105
Honolulu, HI 96814

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
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February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Naturopathic Physician and supporter of Marriage and Family Therapist (Therapy Intern, Student, Friend, etc), I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting **against** HB2029.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Tan, ND, LAc

Testimony from: Christine K. Frazier, M.A.
P.O. 838, Volcano, HI. 96785
808-938-7380
christine@rickfrazier.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee Hearing
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
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Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Honorable Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and to request a vote against its passage within your committee.

As a resident of the Big Island of Hawaii, I obtained my Bachelor's Degree in 2003 from the University of Hawaii at Hilo and my Master's Degree in 2005 with a specialty in Marriage and Family Therapy from Argosy University Honolulu. Since then I have been working in the Puna District with primarily with individuals diagnosed with serious and persistent mental illness (SMPI) in case management, care coordination and therapy positions. My goal is to become a licensed MFT in the state of Hawaii, so that I may better serve those individuals diagnosed with mental illness in the rural communities of Puna. Due to the economic downturn, I am currently unemployed, and in the interim I am pursuing a Ph.D. in Psychology at Capella University, so that I will be better able to serve my community and contribute to the field of psychology.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services, within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT profession. Mental health services have already been reduced by the state of Hawaii due to recent budget restrictions, resulting in reduced programs, lowered services to those diagnosed with mental illness, including permanent state worker layoffs at A.M.H.D. MFTs are dedicated, ethical, highly trained professionals who not only provide a critical service to thousands of Hawaii residents and their families, they are tax payers. *MFTs are currently licensed in all 50 states* and many may be forced to move the mainland to pursue their livelihood if HB2029 is passed without modification removing MFT deregulation. Some important facts about MFTs are:

1. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.

2. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
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4. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
5. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I request your support by voting **against** HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me regarding my testimony, please feel free to contact me at the phone number or email address shown below. Thank you very much for your time and consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Christine K. Frazier, M.A.
P.O. 838, Volcano, HI. 96785
808-938-7380
christine@rickfrazier.com

Janet Covington, LMHC

240 Kila Place
Wahiawa, HI 96786
Cellular: (808) 291-5321 Facsimile: (808) 622-4971
Email: janet.covington.counseling@gmail.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Copies needed: 2

February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapy Intern and a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, I am opposed to HB2029 and ask that you not allow it to pass through your committee.

Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) are committed and experienced mental health professionals who serve a vast number of clients throughout our island communities. To repeal the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry.

MFTs are important to Hawaii because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist. This is very important to Hawaii, whose large rural communities continue to have major needs for mental health services.
2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care and demonstrate traditional collaborative and working relationships with other professions.
3. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.

● Page 2

February 17, 2010

4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments. The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas including veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide much-needed mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by opposing HB2029 and the inclusion of MFTs within this bill.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please feel free to contact me at the phone number and email printed above.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Janet Covington

Anthony R. Cara

361 Holokai Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96825
(808) 396-5610
acara@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist Therapy Intern, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

Currently, I work at Hina Mauka Recovery Center, helping with people in need of recovery from substance abuse and dependence.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.
3. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.
4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony R. Cara,
Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Intern, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I am currently accumulating direct supervised hours towards licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist. I work as a school counselor offering assistance to students with a wide variety of issues, including family problems. My MFT training has been invaluable in helping these students deal with their issues.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Karyn Tercy, MSCP

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Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist Intern, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I have recently graduated last year with my Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and have been earning hours towards obtaining my licensure. The experience I had at my internship in my master's program was a validation to why I chose this profession. I worked with at-risk adolescent girls who had gone through many foster homes, substance abuse, physical abuse, suicidal attempts, and severe mental disorders. At that residential home, I also realized the importance of the families these teenagers come from who also suffer from generations of physical abuse, substance use, etc. From this experience, I noticed there is a big need for MFTs who are able to work with these family systems to improve the relationships in the family which affect the well-being and behaviors of their children.

I currently work as a Multisystemic Therapist with a local agency and work directly with families in their home. As a therapist, I am able to go into the clients homes to observe and work with the families to improve parenting skills and help families create a structure for their adolescents who struggle with truancy, criminal behavior, and substance use. I work in collaboration with state agencies, the school system, and other stakeholders in the community. As an MFT intern, I am able to apply my knowledge of family therapy theories to these families and to help the families be successful in their treatment of their difficult adolescents.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.

5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Sabey, MA

Michele Biane MA, CSAC

(808) 334-0979

Michele.Biane@gmail.com

Your address, phone #, email address

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist Therapy Intern, **I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029** and vote against its passage within your committee.

I am a substance abuse counselor and my certification through the State of Hawaii Alcohol and Drug Division (and its oversight) is essential to assure the best possible care is provided to the consumer. My education in MFT is even more crucial as substance abuse involves and affects many systems – family, friends, community and criminal justice.

The MFT licensure is a requirement to bill many third party providers. Consumers will not be able to afford these vital services if the option of payment through health insurance is extinguished. The consumers – especially here on the Big Island – will be adversely affected. These services must be available so we can heal our island.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii.

I ask for your support by voting AGAINST HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michele J. Biane MA, CSAC
Certified Substance Abuse Counselor
Marriage and Family Therapy Post-Masters Intern

Testimony for House Finance Committee
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415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist Intern, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I just took the Marriage & Family Therapist licensure exam on January 30th and am anxiously awaiting to hear the results of my exam. I moved here because I wanted to bring my experience and compassion to serve the needs of Hawaii. I believe that MFTs bring a set of skills that social workers and psychologists do not due to our specific training.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Janet Covington, LMHC

240 Kilea Place
Wahiawa, HI 96786
Cellular: (808) 291-5321 Facsimile: (808) 622-4971
Email: janet.covington.counseling@gmail.com

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RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapy Intern and a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, I am opposed to HB2029 and ask that you not allow it to pass through your committee.

Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) are committed and experienced mental health professionals who serve a vast number of clients throughout our island communities. To repeal the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry.

MFTs are important to Hawaii because:

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Marriage and Family Therapists provide much-needed mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by opposing HB2029 and the inclusion of MFTs within this bill.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please feel free to contact me at the phone number and email printed above.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet Covington

Karla Kim, MC

98-402 Koauka Loop, Apt 1109
Aiea HI, 96701

(808) 258-1183

Karla-k@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
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415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist, Intern, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I've worked in the mental health field for over 10 years and received my Masters in Counseling in Marriage and Family Therapy in 2005. I've also completed extensive training and worked very hard to accrue my internship hours over the course of 2 years with the goal of taking the MFT Licensure Exam. I've been studying for this exam for the past 8 months and will sit for it in May 2010. I am currently providing family counseling through a non-profit organization. I've come across many families and individuals who having difficulties with Anxiety, Depression, Domestic Violence issues, life transitions and many more. These issues are sensitive and it is important to regulate the practice of Marriage and Family Therapists, in order to ensure that the families of Hawaii are getting qualified Clinicians helping them. We, MFT's, are also held at a high ethical standard and without this regulation, it would allow for anyone to provide therapy, with no set standard of practice or professional conduct.

I respectfully request the language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB 2029. I can be reached at (808) 258-1183, if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karla Kim

Faye Marie Ramos, MA

737 Akumu Street, Kailua, HI 96734, 261-4942(home)/386-4720(cell),
fayemarie@hawaiiantel.net

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Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

As a Marriage and Family Therapy Intern, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I currently work for Catholic Charities Hawaii. My experience with this agency includes individual and group counseling with child victims of sexual abuse and their families, victims of domestic violence as well as counseling for clients from the community with a variety of issues including anger management, family crisis and marriage problems. I now oversee a group home for pregnant women in crisis. We provide individual and group counseling as well as classes in childbirth, infant care and life skills to help women regain independence and build a better future. I will be applying for MFT licensure next year.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting **against** HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Faye Marie Ramos, MA
Marriage and Family Therapy Intern

Caroline Cochran

59-611 Ke Iki Road ♦ Haleiwa, HI 96712
carrie.cochran@excite.com
808-542-3030

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February 18, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist (Therapy Intern), I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

Working as a Marriage & Family Therapist (Therapy Intern/Pre-Licensure) I have had the opportunity to work with a diverse population of families from Hawaii's military community to assist children and families better function at school and in the community. As I continue my work, I look forward to reaching out to many more families and individuals as well as promoting the importance of mental health in our community.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Caroline Cochran

Dawn Shea-Frick

95-2048 Waikalani Place
D405
Mililani, HI 96789

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapy Intern, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

As an intern, I worked for the Salvation Army Family Treatment Services where I provided services to mother's in recovery. I would consider my background in Marriage & Family Therapy to be helpful and essential to my work with clients with substance abuse and addiction problems. Helping clients understand that addiction is a "family disease" was much easier given my understanding of the family system, which I developed only through studying the discipline of Marriage and Family Therapy.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Dawn Shea-Frick

Jennifer Roberts

Address: 1063 Kamookoa Pl.
Phone: 808-393-6060
Email: Jennifer.roberts@live.com

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Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapy Intern and Student, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I have been attending Argosy University for the past 1.5 years in the MFT program and just start my Practicum at Mental Health Kokua. It is so sad for me to see this happening. This decision will drastically affect many peoples' lives in a negative way.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Roberts

Dayna Chang

45-569 Kaaluna Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744
808-728-5656
daynachang@hotmail.com

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Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist student I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I feel it would be a terrible mistake to repeal the MFT licensure in the state of Hawaii. I am a first year MFT student and love every minute of my education as an MFT graduate student. I have lived in Hawaii my whole life and plan to raise my own family here in Hawaii because of it's beauty and friendly people. I have wanted to be a marriage and family therapist since I was 12 years old. I have been in therapy since I was twelve and it has been one of the best things in my life. As a child going to therapy it was very comforting to know that there was someone who cared about my issues and who wanted to help me become a better person. I recommend therapy to my friends, family, and peers because I believe it can only help one to believe in him/herself and become more confident while working through their issues. Repealing the MFT licensure would be detrimental to those who need help from professionals who are specialized in helping couples, but more importantly children.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.
3. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal

government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.

4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting **against** HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dayna Chang

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed

February 18, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist Student, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I was notified about HB 2029 today and it saddens, frustrates and disappoints me that as a future MFT (graduating in June 2010), I may not have the opportunity to utilize my experience, training and education that I and many of my colleagues have dreamt about since beginning the program. We have been taught specifically to work with families as a unit, unique to other mental health field. MFTs provide for the community and very much needed in the field of healing. MFTs stand by a code of ethics and have been recognized in serving in the mental health field.

Passing HB 2029 will not only impact us as future MFTs or current LMFTs, it impacts the communities we serve in Hawaii. Ohana is very important to everyone, somewhere there is someone's brother, sister, son, daughter, niece, nephew, grandchild, mother, father, or friend that will not be able to access the value of having MFTs with the passing of this bill.

In Hawaii, family or "ohana" is of great value across all cultures that reside here. Within families, there are many prominent challenges that our ohana's face; challenges such as substance abuse, domestic violence, marital and family distress, child abuse, and many other mental, emotional and health problems that MFTs have been known to effectively treating.

Currently I am interning in a domestic violence shelter for teen girls and I can see how MFTs are so effective in integrating the families with the program. This integration facilitated by a Licensed MFT has encouraged me personally that it is far more than just providing a diagnosis, MFTs provides a therapeutic relationship with the people we service. MFTs provide a safe environment to address the core of issues presented by individuals and their families.

MFTs serve the community of families, elderly, adults, adolescents, children, and couples in Hawaii. We are specially trained to work and provide therapy with various cultures, populations, and needs.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting **against** HB2029.

Please think of the impact on students, current licensed MFTs, and the communities that we strive to serve. Hawaii's orientation and value of Ohana will very much be impacted by decisions made, I ask that you support us not for the future of our profession, but for the future of keeping the spirit of ohana alive within the islands.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Maritess Macaraeg
MFT Student

Marisa Nakasone

609 Wyllie St.
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 779-2575
Marisa.nakasone@gmail.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist Student, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee. Since I have been in school pursuing my Master's degree in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy I have learned a great deal how this profession with the specialization in working with the community of families, couples, children, the elderly, and the mental health population can effectively help heal and assist these communities to thrive and increase the quality of life that they experience. Those who have a background in specializing in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy are specifically trained to provide therapy to families who suffer from various different contributing factors that threaten most families and also tend to succeed in destroying the relationships of these families and couples when they are not provided with qualified professionals.

It would not be in the best interest for the communities of those that the professionals who are licensed and those in the future working toward licensure work with because the quality of services that MFTs work hard to provide will no longer be held to a high standard. In addition, I feel that licensure of MFTs is also important because we are also trained to be able to diagnosis and create treatment plans that will effectively help the clients that we serve. I have many friends and colleagues who have degrees in other mental health fields and whom have shared that in their training they were not given training in how to specifically work with families and couples compared to those who have their training in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marisa Nakasone

Mary Ann Erwin

1128 Pueo Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
808-734-2357
Merwin007@hawaiiintel.net

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
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February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist Student, I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

My personal experience is that using a family therapist in difficult times can result in keeping families together and less violent.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Erwin

Laurie La Madrid
PO Box 893391
Milani HI 96789
(808) 227-9016 laurie.lamadrid@gmail.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
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and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist student, I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting **against** HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laurie La Madrid
(808)227-9016)

Mary Essig-Morrow

99-969 V Aiea Heights Drive
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
mananai@hawaii.rr.com
277-9567

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 16, 2010
Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
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415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapy Student, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I have recently completed the MFT program at Argosy University's Honolulu Campus. For the past twenty years I have been an educator and administrator with Hawaii Catholic Schools. One of the reasons I decided to enter and complete the graduate MFT program was for the opportunity it would give me to help children and their families. Due to the prohibitive cost of having school counselors most Catholic schools cannot afford having a counselor or therapist on campus. Deregulating the field of Marriage and Family Therapy would prohibit me from therapeutically supporting students and their families in crisis.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting **against** HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Mary Essig, Morrow

Natalia A Matsumoto
1060 Kamehameha hwy., #2306A
Pearl City, HI 96782
tzarevna@hotmail.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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February 18, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist graduate student, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

As a Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) practicum student, I applied the theories of the MFT while working with the seriously mentally ill population at Queen's medical center as well as with the population suffering from substance abuse and related disorders at Tripler Army Medical Center. I have witnessed success of MFT theory in practice, which solidified my confidence in the chosen profession. The MFT program at Argosy University allowed me to grow both professionally and personally. My marriage was strengthened through the knowledge and practices of Marriage and Family Therapy. In the end, I enjoy my profession because of several reasons including the prospect of being licensed. I strongly believe that licensure of MFT is the way to increase the quality of the profession, which will benefit consumers and, ultimately, increase the status of the Hawaii state.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Natalia A. Matsumoto

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist student, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

The opportunity to become a license Marriage and Family Therapist has been a dream of mine. This opportunity is going to help me to help others here in Hawaii. Currently, I am a mother of two, full time employee, and a full time MFT student. I worked very hard with many sleepless nights to get closer to my goals. This program has helped me to develop in many ways.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Crystal Miles

Brenda Lovette, Psy.D.
40 Maluniu Ave.
Kailua, HI 96734
808-254-6165
lovetteb@lokahiconsulting.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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February 18, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Psychologist, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I refer clients to Marriage and Family Therapists and value their services for these clients. I also have encouraged some clients to work toward this licensure as it benefits the community and is an occupation that helps people.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brenda Lovette, Psy.D.
Hawaii licensed Psychologist

Joe Spillman, PhD

1777 Ala Moana #1217
Honolulu, HI. 96815

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Mental Health Professional in Hawaii, I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Spillman, PhD

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As former client of a Marriage and Family Therapist, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

After the devastating loss of my father at the age of eighteen, I was in need of some help. Having a sibling in the field he referred me to an MFT who had the dubious honor of being my first and last therapist. Years later, I have no doubt that she had a significant impact on my coping through the loss of my father and later success in life. Having a brother in the field definitely helped as well. Please do not take away what these professionals have worked so hard to achieve. I can tell you first hand that they are great at what they do and really make a difference in our state. I also have friends who have gone into public service so I know our state gets a lot of criticism for a lot of things. Let us not make a real mistake and take away something that the rest of the country has supported for so long.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting **against** HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shane Tsubaki, MBA

Randi Tanakaya

99-447 Hokea Street, Aiea, HI 96701
(808) 531-3670, randitanakaya@gmail.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
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February 18, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

(State your personal experience, what you do, or what MFTs have done for you)

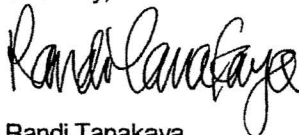
Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

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If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Randi Tanakaya

Testimony by:
Ann VanPatten, MA MFT
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Ann VanPatten, MA MFT, and I am a therapist working with Maui Youth & Family Services, Inc. I provide therapeutic services for youth and families in therapeutic foster care, emergency shelter services and group home clients. I work in partnership with CAMHD, Family Courts, CPS, DOE and OYS. I am currently studying for my licensure test and looking forward to servicing Hawaii's family's in the future. Marriage and Family Therapy is vital to work on Hawaii for numerous reasons.

Marriage and Family Therapy is a science driven, research based profession comprised of mental health practitioners trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems. MFTs specialize in treating mental disorders within the context of relationships. MFTs work with the individual, couple, or family to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved.

The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services including, but not limited to: 1. individual psychotherapy; 2. relationship counseling; 3. family therapy; 4. work-related consultation; 5. substance abuse professional evaluations; 6. child custody evaluation; 7. school counseling; and more. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy.

We strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. However, with de-regulation, there is the potential for Marriage and Family Therapists who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii and, in the worst case scenario, an individual could establish her/his own practice and claim that they provide Marriage and Family Therapy services; when, in fact, she/he may not have the professional qualifications which could clearly lead to consumer harm. Further, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.

MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.

The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.

MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (3). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (4). Including Family Therapists in health plans has led to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.

MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic

medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

Finally, if you, or a family member, had a family crisis, potential relationship breakup, family substance abuse problem, or adolescent emergency; your physician would refer you for marriage and family therapy services. The MFT would work with you on the resolution of your relationship or family problems. However, if this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated. Major insurance carriers, such as HMSA and AlohaCare, along with Medicaid; and other 3rd party payers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 987-7070 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Ann VanPatten, MA MFT
Maui Youth & Family Services, Inc.

Testimony by:
Amrita Lowenthal M.F.T
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Amrita Lowenthal M.F.T., and I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFTs) in the State of Hawaii. I work as an MFT in a variety of agencies and settings within our state including, but not limited to: the Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; active duty military and their families; Child Protective Services and with foster children, substance abuse treatment centers; and mental health practices.

Marriage and Family Therapy is a science driven, research based profession comprised of mental health practitioners trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems. MFTs specialize in treating mental disorders within the context of relationships. MFTs work with the individual, couple, or family to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved.

The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a “core mental health profession” along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services including, but not limited to: 1. individual psychotherapy; 2. relationship counseling; 3. family therapy; 4. work-related consultation; 5. substance abuse professional evaluations; 6. child custody evaluation; 7. school counseling; and more. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy.

We strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. However, with de-regulation, there is the potential for Marriage and Family Therapists who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii and, in the worst case scenario, an individual could establish her/his own practice and claim that they provide Marriage and Family Therapy services; when, in fact, she/he may not have the professional qualifications which could clearly lead to consumer harm. Further, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.

MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.

The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.

MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (3). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (4). Including Family Therapists in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.

MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

Finally, if you, or a family member, had a family crisis, potential relationship breakup, family substance abuse problem, or adolescent emergency; your physician would refer you for marriage and family therapy services. The MFT would work with you on the resolution of your relationship or family problems. However, if this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated. Major insurance carriers, such as HMSA and AlohaCare, along with Medicaid; and other 3rd party payers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 987-7070 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Amrita Lowenthal, LMFT 168

2. Henrick Harwood, "Training of Behavioral Health Practitioners to Address Substance Use Disorders," Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2003,40-42.
3. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients,"Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2004,33.
4. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients,"Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2004,32.
5. David Hartley, et al., State Licensure Lows and the Mental Health Professions: Implications for the Rural Mental Health Workforce (Portland, ME: Maine Rural Health Research Center, University of Southern Maine, 2002) 8.

**ROBERT A. WOLF, LCSW
1188 BISHOP STREET
SUITE 1306
HONOLULU, HI 96813**

Testimony by: Robert A. Wolf, LCSW

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010

Room 308 – 11:00 am

Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029.

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and strongly oppose HB 2029.

I serve as the President of the Board of Directors for Hale Ipu Kukui Alaka'i, a non-profit social service agency dealing with clients who have severe and persistent mental illness;

I strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the community.

MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country.

MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states.

MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Please, please oppose HB2029 HD1, or alternatively change the wording of HB2029 HD1 to remove Marriage and Family Therapists from the list of professions to repeal regulatory programs.

Repealing the regulatory program for MFT's would be a giant step back for Hawaii Behavioral Health accessibility. The American Association of Marriage and Therapists, www.AAMFT.org recently reported that **all 50 States now recognize, license & regulate and allow vendorship (insurance coverage) of Marriage and Family Therapists** (November/December 2009 issue). AAMFT is currently working towards national Medicare acceptance of MFT's.

If MFT's were not permitted state licensure, it would extremely limit access to Behavioral Health Providers. Prior to MFT licensure, Outer island people just didn't get help, there weren't any providers. **Foster children, recovering addicts, and severely mentally ill wouldn't be able to receive the help they desperately need.** Hawaii would return to consumers – in - crisis waiting 3 weeks to 4 weeks to be able to receive help and relief.

Additionally, higher functioning, stressing-out people would be competing with the aforementioned populations to be seen by Providers. **Imagine you just found out your spouse had an affair, and not only can't you see a Marriage Counselor, your insurance won't cover it, and you have to wait – in agony and indecision - a month to see a psychologist.** If HB2029 passed, that would be the scenario.

Vote to oppose HB 2029 HD1, Relating to Professions and Occupations. I'm including some additional information, supporting opposing this measure.

Thank You,
Summer Eggleston, MFT, CSAC

*Summer Eggleston, MFT, CSAC
77-6400 Nalani St Suite 200
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
(808) 327-1711
summer@summertherapist.com*

*For more information, please visit my website:
www.summertherapist.com or
Psychology Today's Therapist Locator listing:
<http://www.therapist.psychologytoday.com/46435>*

HB2029 Talking Points

- MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.
- MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full

range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

- MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.
- The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.
- MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (3). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are

twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (4). Including Family Therapists in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.

- MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

2. Henrick Harwood, "Training of Behavioral Health Practitioners to Address Substance Use Disorders,"

Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2003,40-42.

3. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients,"Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2004,33.

4. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients,"Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2004,32.

5. David Hartley, et al., State Licensure Laws and the Mental Health Professions: Implications for the Rural Mental Health Workforce (Portland, ME: Maine Rural Health Research Center, University of Southern Maine, 2002) 8.

GRACE WORKS, LLC
Rhesa R. Kaulia, MFT
94-1221 Ka Uka Blvd., Ste. B202A
Waipahu, HI 96797
(808) 389-9369 www.rhesakaulia.com

Testimony by: Rhesa R. Kaulia, MFT
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Friday, February 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 AM
Agenda Item #2
Position: OPPOSE

Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Rhesa R. Kaulia, MFT and I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the State of Hawai'i, a Clinical Member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) and a Clinical Member of the Hawai'i Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT). I am writing to strongly oppose bill HB 2029 which would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J).

Marriage and Family Therapy is a research based and scientifically driven profession comprised of practitioners who are independently able to diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems within the context of relationships and systems.

The deregulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interests of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects our consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawai'i have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. The deregulation of Marriage and Family Therapists in Hawai'i will allow a loophole for Marriage and Family Therapists in other states who have been censored to practice in Hawai'i, and this could potentially lead to serious consumer harm. Additionally, Hawai'i would then become the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

I currently provide Marriage and Family Therapy services to a large population of clients from rural communities extending from the West side of the island to the North. Most of my consumers come from Makaha, Waianae, Nanakuli, Kapolei, Makakilo, Ewa Beach, Waipahu, Haleiwa, Waialua, Wahiawa, Mililani and Pearl City. These consumers identify that not only am I logistically set up to be closest to their rural homes, but I am also qualified to address the myriad of problems that they are seeking assistance for. There is such great need for services to be available to consumers in these rural communities.

Additionally, the following is a list of reasons why MFT services are so gravely needed:

- MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.
- MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.
- MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) Studies have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.
- The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Campus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.
- MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (2). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (3). Including Family Therapists in health plans has led to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.

- MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (4).

Marriage and Family Therapists have specialized training in working toward the resolution of family, relationship, substance abuse and other crises situations. However, if this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the deregulation of marriage and family therapy. Major insurance carriers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals. In Hawai'i that translates to 315 Marriage and Family Therapists losing their jobs and/or practices, some of which have been long established, as a result of not being able to provide regulated services. This means that many individuals could also be forced away from their home state to other states that allow the benefit of regulated Marriage and Family Therapy services. This is detrimental for the practitioner and the consumer.

I respectfully request that the language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 389-9369 if additional information is needed. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony.

With Sincere Aloha,

Rhesa R. Kaulia, MFT
Hawai'i Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

1. Henrick Harwood, "Training of Behavioral Health Practitioners to Address Substance Use Disorders," Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2003,40-42.
2. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients,"Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2004,33.
3. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients,"Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2004,32.
4. David Hartley, et al., State Licensure Laws and the Mental Health Professions: Implications for the Rural Mental Health Workforce (Portland, ME: Maine Rural Health Research Center, University of Southern Maine, 2002) 8.

***LESLIE ROSS, PH.D., MFT
5307 KALANIANA'OLE HWY. #K
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96821***

Testimony by: Leslie Ross, Ph.D., MFT

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010

Room 308 – 11:00 am

Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029.

I am a Marriage and Family Therapist practicing in Hawaii.

I serve as the President /CEO of Hale Ipu Kukui Alaka'i, a non-profit social service agency dealing with clients who have severe and persistent mental illness;

as the Clinical Director of Community Empowerment Services, a community based case management agency also serving the severely mentally ill client;

as Adjunct Professor at Chaminade University, as instructor for various Master's level courses in Marriage and Family Therapy;

as Clinical Supervisor for Post-Master's level Interns;

and I maintain a small private practice, seeing primarily severely mentally clients who no one else will see.

I became licensed in Hawaii in 2005, although I have been a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) since 1988, licensed by the State of California.

I strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the community.

- MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states.
- MFTs work in a variety of agencies and settings within our state including, but not limited to: the

Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; active duty military and their families; U.S. Department of Transportation; rural areas; families and communities; hospital and clinic systems; substance abuse treatment centers; and mental health practices.

- The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.
- The State of Hawaii recognizes MFT's as a "Qualified Mental Health Professional"
- MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist.
- The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402).
- MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029.

I can be reached at (808) 722-0225 if additional information is needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Leslie Ross, Ph.D.

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Jeni Mitsuyoshi, MA and I am currently an employee of the Department of Education – School Based Behavioral Health program. I work directly with students at three different schools, addressing their behavioral needs.

I believe that the testimony provided by Paul Kai Swigart has a very comprehensive explanation of why Marriage and Family Therapy should be repealed. It is as follows:

I strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. However, with de-regulation, there is the potential for Marriage and Family Therapists who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii and, in the worst case scenario, an individual could establish her/his own practice and claim that they provide Marriage and Family Therapy services; when, in fact, she/he may not have the professional qualifications which could clearly lead to consumer harm. Further, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

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MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (3). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (4). Including Family Therapists in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.

MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

Finally, if you, or a family member, had a family crisis, potential relationship breakup, family substance abuse problem, or adolescent emergency; your physician would refer you for marriage and family therapy services. The MFT would work with you on the resolution of your relationship or family problems. However, if this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated. Major insurance carriers, such as HMSA and AlohaCare, along with Medicaid; and other 3rd party payers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Jeni Mitsuyoshi, MA

2. Henrick Harwood, "Training of Behavioral Health Practitioners to Address Substance Use Disorders," Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2003,40-42.
3. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients,"Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2004,33.
4. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients,"Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2004,32.
5. David Hartley, et al., State Licensure Laws and the Mental Health Professions: Implications for the Rural Mental Health Workforce (Portland, ME: Maine Rural Health Research Center, University of Southern Maine, 2002) 8.

Testimony by:
Amrita Lowenthal M.F.T
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Amrita Lowenthal M.F.T., and I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFTs) in the State of Hawaii. I work as an MFT in a variety of agencies and settings within our state including, but not limited to: the Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; Child Protective Services and with foster children, substance abuse treatment centers; and doing Intake Assessments for Adult Mental Health.

Marriage and Family Therapy is a science driven, research based profession comprised of mental health practitioners trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems. MFTs specialize in treating mental disorders within the context of relationships. MFTs work with the individual, couple, or family to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved.

The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a “core mental health profession” along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services including, but not limited to: 1. individual psychotherapy; 2. relationship counseling; 3. family therapy; 4. work-related consultation; 5. substance abuse professional evaluations; 6. child custody evaluation; 7. school counseling; and more. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy.

We strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners’ rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. However, with de-regulation, there is the potential for Marriage and Family Therapists who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii and, in the worst case scenario, an individual could establish her/his own practice and claim that they provide Marriage and Family Therapy services; when, in fact, she/he may not have the professional qualifications which could clearly lead to consumer harm. Further, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.

MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.

The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.

MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

Finally, if you, or a family member, had a family crisis, potential relationship breakup, family substance abuse problem, or adolescent emergency; your physician would refer you for marriage and family therapy services. The MFT would work with you on the

resolution of your relationship or family problems. However, if this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated. Major insurance carriers, such as HMSA and AlohaCare, along with Medicaid; and other 3rd party payers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 280-5220 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amrita Lowenthal LMFT". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amrita Lowenthal, LMFT 168

GRACE WORKS, LLC
Rhesa R. Kaulia, MFT
94-1221 Ka Uka Blvd., Ste. B202A
Waipahu, HI 96797
(808) 389-9369 www.rhesakaulia.com

Testimony by: Rhesa R. Kaulia, MFT
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Friday, February 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 AM
Agenda Item #2
Position: OPPOSE

Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Rhesa R. Kaulia, MFT and I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the State of Hawai'i, a Clinical Member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) and a Clinical Member of the Hawai'i Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT). I am writing to strongly oppose bill HB 2029 which would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J).

Marriage and Family Therapy is a research based and scientifically driven profession compromised of practitioners who are independently able to diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems within the context of relationships and systems.

The deregulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interests of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects our consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawai'i have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. The deregulation of Marriage and Family Therapists in Hawai'i will allow a loophole for Marriage and Family Therapists in other states who have been censored to practice in Hawai'i, and this could potentially lead to serious consumer harm. Additionally, Hawai'i would then become the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

I currently provide Marriage and Family Therapy services to a large population of clients from rural communities extending from the West side of the island to the North. Most of my consumers come from Makaha, Waianae, Nanakuli, Kapolei, Makakilo, Ewa Beach, Waipahu, Haleiwa, Waijalua, Wahiawa, Mililani and Pearl City. These consumers identify that not only am I logistically set up to be closest to their rural homes, but I am also qualified to address the myriad of problems that they are seeking assistance for. There is such great need for services to be available to consumers in these rural communities.

Additionally, the following is a list of reasons why MFT services are so gravely needed:

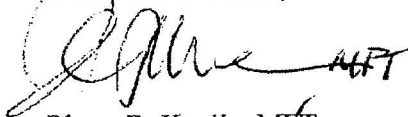
- MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.
- MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.
- MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) Studies have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.
- The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.
- MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (2). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (3). Including Family Therapists in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.

- MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (4).

Marriage and Family Therapists have specialized training in working toward the resolution of family, relationship, substance abuse and other crises situations. However, if this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the deregulation of marriage and family therapy. Major insurance carriers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals. In Hawai'i that translates to 315 Marriage and Family Therapists losing their jobs and/or practices, some of which have been long established, as a result of not being able to provide regulated services. This means that many individuals could also be forced away from their home state to other states that allow the benefit of regulated Marriage and Family Therapy services. This is detrimental for the practitioner and the consumer.

I respectfully request that the language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 389-9369 if additional information is needed. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony.

With Sincere Aloha,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Kaulia', with the letters 'MFT' written in a smaller, separate script to the right of the signature.

Rhesa R. Kaulia, MFT
Hawai'i Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

1. Henrick Harwood, "Training of Behavioral Health Practitioners to Address Substance Use Disorders," Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2003, 40-42.
2. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients," Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2004, 33.
3. David Bergman, "Marriage and Family Therapists Serving Rural Clients," Family Therapy Magazine, November-December 2004, 32.
4. David Hartley, et al., State Licensure Laws and the Mental Health Professions: Implications for the Rural Mental Health Workforce (Portland, ME: Maine Rural Health Research Center, University of Southern Maine, 2002) 8.

Michelle K.Y. Lee

1508 Oili Loop Honolulu, HI 96816
PH: 808-741-8329
E-Mail: MichelleL808@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed

February 18, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a recent graduate with a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapist, I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I have been working with children with special needs for about 10 years. In my time working with them I have seen how their disability not only affects them but also their families. This is why I have chosen to work in the field of marriage and family therapy. I believe that family has a profound effect on an individual. Families teach us how to relate to others and shape us to who we will become. As a future Marriage and Family Therapist I look forward to helping couples, families and individuals with issues that are causing them distress.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.
3. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.
4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.

5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting **against** HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle K.Y. Lee

Donna A. Apo

925 Kahikolu Place Honolulu, HI 96818:
Phone: 808-652-8705
apod@hawaii.edu

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee. As a member of the community and life-time resident of State of Hawaii, I want to express the importance of Marriage and Family Therapist licensure in Hawaii.

In Hawaii, we emphasized the importance of "Ohana" meaning family, and that "Ohana" is the strength based of the State Of Hawaii; I have been employed with varies non-profit organization, at the grass roots of our community; I have seen first- hand the struggles of families, especially in the substance abuse field; inspite their circumstances, 'Ohana' is very important connection to their heritage; Therefore, in 2008, I returned to school to pursue an education in the field of human/social services to acquire knowledge and skills to better serve of our Hawaii "Ohana":

Currently, I am a MFT student, in which I believe the knowledge, training and licensure in Marriage and Family Therapy will provide the best opportunities that practitioners will offer the families in the State of Hawaii. Thus, I would want to express my encouragement to your committee to sustain and uphold the licensure in for Marriage and Family Therapist in the State of Hawaii.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.
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4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donna A.Apo
Resident of State of Hawaii

Cynthia Carlton-Jarmon
(808) 783-4334
hawaii1ceejay@aol.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 18, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I retired from the United States Army and I am a disabled veteran. I provide therapeutic services to a vast array of individuals in our society, i.e., victims of domestic violence, severe mentally ill consumers, and mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, transitions in life, etc. I provide individual and family counseling to some of our military members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan experiencing PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) and difficulties with re-integrating back into a family unit. The Marriage and Family Therapists in Hawaii is providing valuable and a much needed service to these brave and honorable individual and their family.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.
3. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.
4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Carlton-Jarmon

February 17, 2010

To: House Finance Committee

Re: HB 2029

Hearing Scheduled For: Friday, 11:00am 2/19/2010

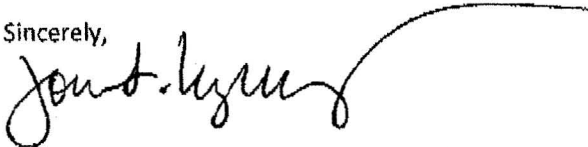
I am writing IN OPPOSITION OF HB 2029/HRS Chapter 451 J which would eliminate MFT licensure in the state of Hawaii and as a result significantly reduce the public's access to providers for marriage and family counseling by competent professionals who can bill the consumer's insurance for services. As a resident of Kauai and a professional, I recall the very limited available professionals on my island years ago and the process of creating the MFT licensure and then their capacity to become a vendor under health insurance in this state. Hawaii was one of the last states to complete this process as many other states had for many years licensed this profession.

It would be most unfortunate to return to a time where only some of our citizens could get needed help. You continue to license social workers and psychologists yet someone deems it responsible to eliminate marriage/family therapists – I question the motives behind this legislation and the short sightedness of this effort and its consequences. Hawaii is suffering economic deficits and many individuals and families are experiencing significant losses. Assuring the availability of trained and licensed mental health professionals particularly on a rural island is important to the health of all Hawaii communities.

I work both in a public setting as a Program Manager for the YWCA of Kauai and as a private practice consultant to MFTs, have been licensed since the first examination process was established in Hawaii and previously licensed in the state of California. I recognize expanding resources in these times is most difficult but eliminating the current process that assures that families can use their health insurance to seek competent and professionally recognized practitioners to reduce the impact of family stressors and trauma where they live is unnecessary.

I respectfully request that the language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451 J) be removed from HB 2029. Thank you for your consideration on this matter and the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan Fallon Luzney", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Joan Fallon Luzney, MFT #6, Approved Supervisor, AAMFT #87192

6418 Puupilo Rd., Kapaa, HI 96746 808-212-1747

Testimony by:
Jacy L. Campbell
HB 2029 Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Rm. 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

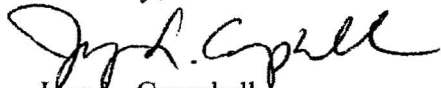
My name is Jacy L. Campbell and I am the Student Representative for the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). The HAMFT represents Marriage and Family Therapists who are clinical, associate, student, and affiliate members who work in a variety of settings. As an MFT student, I foresee many opportunities in the mental health field. MFT's explore creative therapeutic solutions that focus on the family and collaborate with other professionals to work toward strengthening our community. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychology, social work, psychiatry, and psychiatric nursing. Further, licensed or certified MFT's provide mental health services in 50 states.

I look forward to serving families in need as a licensed MFT and humbly ask that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB 2029.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 265-9769.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,


Jacy L. Campbell
HAMFT Student Representative

February 17, 2010

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing this letter in opposition to bill HB 2029, that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy licensure (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapy licensure is not in the best interest of the people of Hawaii. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioner's rights to provide MFT services.

I am currently employed by Catholic Charities of Hawaii as a Clinical Specialist with the Enhanced Healthy Start Program. I service clients on the Leeward side of the island, from Hawaii Kai to North Shore. As a Clinical Specialist, I have been counseling clients who are challenged by multiple stressors which include mental health issues, relational discord, substance use, bereavement, domestic violence and parenting. With the economic times we live in, many of the families need a "life line" that would be of a support for the welfare of the children.

Since I have graduated from the American Schools of Professional Psychology in 2001 with my M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy, I have worked as an autism consultant, a residential counselor for a group home that services women who are pregnant and a Clinical Specialist with Healthy Start and Enhanced Healthy Start. I am utilizing my field of experience for my post graduate work to eventually attain my MFT licensure in which I can further provide services to the people of our islands.

If Marriage and Family Therapy were no longer to be regulated, insurance carriers would no longer recognize Marriage and Family Therapists, and the clients' health insurance would no longer pay for treatment. This would cause financial challenges for our clients who rely on medical insurance to help cover the cost of MFT services. This would also cause greater burden on the system: clients would be driven to seek treatment from the more expensive providers (psychologists and psychiatrists), or go untreated. The latter would escalate into the social problems that our profession is committed to prevent child abuse, harm to other individuals and their property, incarceration, and preventable deaths.

I respectfully request to retain the language and definition of Marriage and Family Therapist (licensed in marriage and family therapy practice pursuant to Chapter 451J), and not have the definition deleted in HB 2029. Please contact me at (808) 393-0705 for further inquiries. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,

Traci Muramoto

Traci Muramoto, MA.

Colleen F.G Daly

(808) 640-4889
(808) 968-8959

P.O. Box 1875
Hilo, HI 96721-1875

cdaly1@hnl.stu.argosy.edu

Testimony by:
Colleen F.G Daly (Upcoming graduate of MFT C/O 2010)
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Colleen F.G Daly and I am a student of Argosy University's MFT program in Hilo Hawaii, and am planning to graduate in Dec of 2010. I am also a member of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). As a current MFT intern I serve and treat children who are victims of intrafamilial sexual abuse. I feel that my training and work with this population is crucial to the individual's quality of life, and decrease in occurrence of untreated victims later offending. I work currently at Easter Seals Hawaii, and intern at Child and Family Services: Sexual abuse treatment program and Alternatives to Violence Program.

I and my fellow 7 classmates strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J).

I am sure you are aware that by passing this Bill you would be isolating Hawaii as the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession. Hawaii is isolated enough, especially from appropriate health care, and professionals. My cohort alone has 5 out of 8 members who are born and raised on the Island of Hawaii, who plan and are committed to using their higher education degrees to serve the people of Hawaii especially populations of highest needs. Please let's not continue to "brain drain" Hawaii.

I respectfully, and desperately request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 640-4889 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Colleen F.G Daly

NICK BARTLEMUS

1283 Uluniu Road, #6
Kihei, Hawaii 96753
(808) 879-5520

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 17, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Nick Bartlemus and I am married to a Hawaii licensed marriage and family therapist. I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

As a licensed marriage and family therapist in Hawaii, my wife provides services to a variety of consumers through community agencies as well as many of the health insurance companies including but limited to- HMSA, Aloha Care, HMAA, HMA, and UHA. She also provides advocacy and consultation services for children with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities.

My wife has been the majority financial contributor in our family since the decline of the construction industry this past year where I was laid off. We also have a family member with a chronic aggressive and potentially terminal illness who we are trying to support during their health crisis. The loss of MFT licensure would be devastating to our family both financially and emotionally. Our current financial stability relies on my wife's continued access to 3rd party payers and vendorship- which requires regulatory license.

I humbly ask for your support by voting against HB2029. I respectfully urge you to remove the language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) from HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Nick Bartlemus

Gail L. Eynon

(808) 935-5842

1875 Kalanianaʻole Ave. Apt. 102

(808) 989-1709

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

mekealohalaulima@aol.com

Testimony by:

Gail Eynon, M.F.T. Student, Capella University

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010

Room 308 – 11:00 am

Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Gail Eynon and I am a proud student member of the HAMFT. I have recently finished my academics with Capella University and am about to enter the practicum and internship phase of my academics with graduation in sight December of this year. It is my goal to get licensed by the State of Hawaii in Marriage and Family Therapy and have my own private practice here in Hilo.

While employed with an agency who worked with families involved with Child Protective Services who serviced families with children three-years-old and younger, I was assigned to support mostly the pregnant teens and teen parents who ended up in foster care. As my duties were mostly focused on child development and teaching parenting skills to these young parents I found it necessary to refer my clients for therapy. As the majority of my clients were in-between the stages of being children and adults with adult responsibilities, I found it difficult to find sufficient professional therapy to meet their needs. This was the dilemma that directed me toward attaining my master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. To fill the void these young adults face.

Pregnant teens and teen parents need the guidance and support of Marriage and Family Therapist who can help them individually, as couples, and including the extended family members they still rely on and are legally accountable to. Most of the young families I worked with relied on

insurance to financially take care of their needs, most of them with State assistance. If insurance is not available to meet their fees, the specific and sensitive issues surrounding their young families will be limited to general issues and I fear the adolescents will fall through the cracks of the very services they need, focusing on themselves, their stage in life, their partners, and their families. I plan on becoming a professional in Marriage and Family Therapy to help these young families and pray Hawaii will support their needs also of obtaining access to the very services they need. These services will not only benefit the clients, but the State of Hawaii as well.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 935-5842 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,

Gail L. Eynon

Student member of the HAMFT

Capella University

Testimony by:
Elizabeth K. Lyons, MA
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Kehaulani Lyons. I oppose HB2029 because, as I understand it, this bill contains language which could repeal and de-regulate Marriage and Family Therapists in the State of Hawaii. De-regulation of this profession is not in the best interests of our citizens, as it undermines the good work done by MFTs. While HB2029, as it relates to the work of Marriage and Family Therapists, does not appear to benefit the people of Hawaii, it carries the potential to harm those individuals, couples, and families who now receive much needed mental health services from MFTs, as well as those who may find themselves in need of such services, provided by qualified professionals.

MFTs are trained to provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services including, but not limited to: 1. individual psychotherapy; 2. relationship counseling; 3. family therapy; 4. work-related consultation; 5. substance abuse professional evaluations; 6. child custody evaluation; 7. school counseling; and more. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy, yet are trained to collaborate closely with other professionals, to provide the very best possible care.

Regulation of the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners. Under current statutes, licensed MFTs must meet rigorous requirements, from the first day of graduate level coursework to completion of a graduate degree to post-degree clinical hours and finally to successful completion of a state exam. Ethical standards of practice must be adhered to, throughout. This process ensures that a potential recipient of mental health services will receive optimal care from a licensed MFT. Current regulation protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide such services.

With de-regulation, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation without some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession. Members of our community, including your constituents, could potentially be harmed, if unqualified practitioners cannot be distinguished from those who have undergone the rigors of the current licensure process.

Bottom line, if passed, this legislation could severely restrict access to mental health services in our community. At a time when our local families are desperately in need of supportive resources, and are witnessing widespread cuts to such resources, qualified Marriage and Family Therapists are often the go-to professionals to provide competent, compassionate care. Under current statutes, licensed MFTs are able to provide needed services, with governmental

oversight, as well as the ethical and legal requirements of a strong and active professional organization. Therefore, I respectfully request that any language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth K. Lyons, MA
94-065 Kuahelani Ave., #142
Mililani, HI 96789
808.780.4571

01/17/10
Tanja Nikolic
917 A Alder Street
Honolulu, HI, 96814
tanjacro@yahoo.com
808-386-3307

Testimony by:
Tanja Nikolic, Argosy University MFT student
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee

My name is Tanja Nikolic and I am MFT student at Hawaii Argosy University. I also work as a skills trainer as 1:1 support for special needs children. Through my experience in working individually with severely challenged children, I recognized the lack of support for the entire families in our profession. I felt that my hard work was not maximized because the family was not on the same page with my work, and the skills I thought the client were not carried on. The possibility of working with the entire family system and changing lives mesmerized me. Therefore, I decided to become MFT student. Helping families is essential in our profession, especially when it comes to working with children and families affected by domestic violence, sexual abuse, substance abuse, etc. Helping entire family is of an essence and only marriage and family therapist are the only licensed practitioners with specialized training in marriage and family therapy.

I am currently obtaining my practicum experience with Catholic Charities of Hawaii (Therapeutic Services) and I work with victims of child sexual abuse, victims of rape, victims of domestic violence, even sex offenders. All therapists at the site are MFTs and provide exceptional and much needed services and support to these families in need.

Please don't take away a quality health care from our families and please do not take away the dream of so many MFT therapists.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Tanja Nikolic (MFT student)

Teresa Lathrop, M.S., M.F.T.
Aiea Medical Building
99-128 Aiea Heights Drive, Suite 505
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
Phone and Fax: (808) 955-0933

Testimony by:
Teresa Lathrop, M.S., M.F.T.
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

My name is Teresa Lathrop M.S., M.F.T. and I am a Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice. I specialize in treating depressive and anxiety disorders. For many years I have worked with military families returning from Iraq/Afghanistan as I also specialize in treating Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. I also work for an organization called Community Ties of America. This agency provides community mental health assessments for the State of Hawaii. I interview and assess mental health disorders wherever the need occurs. Most of these assessments have occurred in parks, on street corners, or in agencies with the homeless. Many don't understand that Marriage and Family Therapist often specialize and treat a variety of serious mental health disorders and issues. Many of us are out there in the community providing a very important service to the people of Hawaii.

If you discontinue our licensure, I will no longer qualify to perform much needed services in Hawaii as insurance companies will not reimburse those who are not licensed. I am currently reimbursed by most insurance companies.

I respectfully request Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 284-6569 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Teresa Lathrop, M.S., M.F.T.
Marriage and Family Therapist

Terri Lynn Lum, LSW
P.O. Box 4217
Hilo, HI 96720

RE: HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Marcus Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Terri Lum and I would like to express my strong opposition of HB 2029 as it relates to repealing regulatory programs for marriage and family therapists. I am a licensed social worker who has practiced in Hawaii for over 25 years, and in Hilo for the last 18 years. I have specialized in the field of child welfare services and am well acquainted with the services of licensed marriage and family therapists.

Repealing regulatory programs for marriage and family therapists would severely impact access to quality mental health services, particularly on the neighbor islands. Due to the limited numbers of psychologists in rural areas, marriage and family therapists enable hundreds of people, especially children and adolescents, to receive counseling services.

Deregulating this profession will render them ineligible for third party reimbursements and force them to close their private practices. **This will deprive our community of needed mental health services at a time of greatest need.** The economic crisis in our State creates additional stress on families. At the same time, the State has had to cut back purchase of service contracts and funding for social services in general.

In Hilo, marriage and family therapists work with a significant number of families involved with the Department of Human Services – Child Welfare Services who are court ordered to obtain counseling. There are no alternatives for them if this resource is taken away. As a result children will remain in foster care for longer periods of time, families will not be able to be reunited, and government resources will be additionally burdened as parents will not be able to fulfill their mandated service plans.

I respectfully urge you to remove marriage and family therapists from this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terri Lynn Lum, LSW

Lorie Ann Billings
68-445 Crozier Dr.
Waialua, HI 96791
(808) 722-6361
lorieannbillings@gmail.com

Testimony by:
Lorie Ann Billings LMFT
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Lorie Ann Billings L.M.F.T., and I am working as a Military and Family Life Consultant for the Secretary of Defense. I went into the field of Marriage and Family Therapy because I believed it to be a comprehensive degree that would help me to serve individuals, families and communities using a science driven, research based theoretical approach. MFT's are trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems. The MFT theoretical perspective treats mental disorders in the context of relationships. MFT's work with adults, children, couples and families in various settings to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved.

When I was a child I went to see a therapist who helped me deal with the stresses of a divorce. From that time I knew I wanted to do the same for other children in need. I worked toward that goal for many years and finally after being licensed two years ago I met my goal to work as a practitioner helping families.

Over the years I have watched the field of Marriage and Family Therapy become recognized as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. Out of these professions MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy.

Once I finished my masters program I asked myself what I really wanted to do with my degree. It came to me that I wanted to support our military during a time when our soldiers and their children need it most. I want to be a part of making sure that in this war we give our soldiers and their families the support they deserve so that they can be healthy functioning and contributing members of our society in the future. Currently the program I work for is struggling to fill the positions we have in Hawaii to support these families. If this bill is approved I will not be able to keep this position without a license. I am currently working in the school system providing broad-ranging support to military children and youth, and to family members and other adults who support them.

Lorie Ann Billings
68-445 Crozier Dr.
Waialua, HI 96791
(808) 722-6361
lorieannbillings@gmail.com

I strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating Marriage and Family therapy protects the consumer and allows them to judge whether their practitioner of choice has met regulatory standards to provide them with quality care. The regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists ensures that practitioners provide quality care and adhere to ethical standards of the practice. With De-regulation Hawaii will be the only state that does not have some form of oversight of the marriage and family profession.

Research demonstrates repeatedly the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Studies also show that clients report improvement in work, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

I also provide marriage and family therapy on the North Shore of Oahu. Rural areas tend to have fewer psychiatrists than MFT's. When MFT's and psychiatrists work together to provide a treatment plan clients they are better able to receive comprehensive care.

Lastly, if you or a member of your family was to see your practitioner regarding a relationship issue, family crisis or substance abuse issue. Your practitioner would refer you to a Marriage and Family Therapist. An MFT would use research, science driven family therapy techniques to help you solve your relationship or family issues. If this bill were implemented, an MFT would no longer be able to bill your insurance due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated by the state.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 722-6361 if you have would like any additional information. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Lorie Ann Billings, LMFT

Jay L. Serle
PO Box 11063
Lahaina, HI 96761

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Jay Serle. I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the state of Hawaii. I currently work for the Hawaii Department of education. As a Marriage and Family Therapist working (MFT) in the school system, I work diligently to assist families in crisis and families with communication and mental health issues. One of the reasons I chose the education path of a Marriage and Family Therapist was because it is a regulated profession that allows for licensure and protects the integrity of its clients that are served. I have spent the last five years of my life working toward and attaining licensure. This consisted of two years of Masters level education, a practicum, three years of internship and hundreds of hours studying for the national Marriage and Family Therapy Exam.

As an MFT, I work closely with psychologists, school psychologists, psychiatrists, medical doctors, and other health professionals. MFT's provide a distinct modality of treatment that does not compete, but rather compliments the other professions above.

Currently, MFT's are licensed in all 50 states and also recognized by the federal government. Having licensure in Hawaii allows many of your constituents the ability to seek family treatment. Abolishing MFT licensure would greatly reduce the amount of families that would be able to use the services of MFT's. Eliminating the Hawaii licensure of MFT's would prohibit MFT's from being able to collect insurance reimbursement. Many of your constituents are likely only able to receive family therapy because they have the ability to use their insurance.

The recent financial crisis has contributed to family stress and dysfunction. I have seen these results with my clients and in the community. The loss of the ability to be treated by MFT's would be detrimental to both families and MFT's alike. I respectfully ask you to reconsider taking away mental health services, especially in the current poor economic atmosphere where more and not less mental health services are needed.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 987-7070 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Jay L. Serle M.A., LMFT
Hawaii License #MFT-239

Testimony by:
Joy Quick, MA, MFT
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Joy Quick, MA, MFT, and I am the Interim Chair of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program at Argosy University Hawaii. Argosy University has been training master's level graduate students to become marriage and family therapists since 1999, after the Hawaii state legislature passed the MFT licensure bill in Hawaii (1998).

Students learn about the various marriage and family theories and develop their intervention skills in classroom settings. There is a strong emphasis on diversity and cultural influences here at Argosy to foster respect and understanding of the various cultures here in the islands. After completing a year of classes, students participate in an eleven month practicum within various clinical settings, most of which are non-profit agencies. They both learn from the professional supervisors at the sites as well as give back to the clients and staff at the agencies where they are placed. Many are later hired by those same agencies as they have demonstrated a high level of competency during their practicum service. These agencies work with many local disadvantaged populations such as the homeless, chemically dependent, mentally ill, and victims of domestic violence, sex abuse, post traumatic stress disorder, child abuse, etc.

Marriage and Family Therapists are the only mental health professionals who are specifically trained to work with relationship and family issues. MFTs utilize a systems focus to address client issues in a way that all members of the family are considered, supported, and encouraged. MFTs are bound by a professional code of ethics, written by the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. The December 2009 edition of *US News and World Report* ranked MFTs as one of 50 best careers in 2010 and indicated an expectation that the profession will grow 14% between 2010 and 2018. If there is no MFT professional license in Hawaii, these figures will not apply to our state and the valuable services rendered by MFTs will cease.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 791.5222 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Joy Quick, MA, MFT
Interim Chair, Marriage Family Therapy Program
Argosy University Hawaii
1001 Bishop St., Suite 400
Honolulu, HI 96813

Jennifer Stevens, MA, MFT
Kauai Family Therapy

2975 Haleko Rd, Ste. 307
Lihue, HI 96766

(808)482-0994

Jennifer@KauaiFamilyTherapy.com
www.kauaifamilytherapy.com

Testimony by:
Jennifer Stevens, MA, MFT
Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 17, 2010

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:
Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Jennifer Stevens, MA, MFT, and I am the owner of Kauai Family Therapy, a Marriage and Family Therapy private practice in Lihue. I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I provide assessment, diagnosis and psychotherapeutic services to adults, children, couples, and families. I provide these services as a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT). I am also a California Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. I moved to Kauai seven years ago for the express purpose of pursuing a career as a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. If Hawaii had not had MFT Licensure at that time I would not have considered Marriage and Family Therapy a viable career in Hawaii even though there was and still is a shortage of qualified mental health professionals to serve the people of Kauai.

On any given work day I encounter family issues including but not limited to domestic violence, child abuse, substance abuse, and suicidality. I also treat mental health diagnosis as defined in the Diagnostic and Statistics Manual IV (DSMIV) such as mood disorders, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder in adults and children, etc.

I also have specialized training in working with traumatized children, parenting, difficult parent /child relationships and attachment disorders. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists assist men, women and children through many different crises and help to strengthen relationships and the foundations of families.

The work that I do is highly specialized and would not be possible without the extensive education, training and experience that I acquired under the supervision of a more experienced and approved Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. MFTs are the only licensed professionals with specialized training in marriage and family therapy. HRS Chapter 451J is crucial to the profession of Marriage and Family Therapy as it legally defines the educational requirements, training, experience and testing required for licensure as well as the Scope of Practice of a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. It protects consumers by defining minimum standards and assuring they have been met, legally protecting the psychotherapeutic relationship with confidentiality and privilege.

Also as licensed Marriage and Family Therapist professional, I am held to the Ethical Standards of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. A national organization which without State licensure I am not qualified to be a Clinical Member and would not have any affiliation or obligation to any specific code of ethics. The AAMFT code of ethics defines how I work with individuals and families. For example, I provide services without discrimination on the basis of race, gender, ethnic origin or religion, my fees are disclosed in advance and are not excessive, I provide services for the benefit of the client and do not take advantage to the therapeutic relationship for personal gain. I work within my expertise and both collaborate and refer to psychiatrists, psychologists and other professionals to the benefit of clients.

Both the legal code and the ethics code protect the people of Hawaii from actual or potential exploitation by holding professionals accountable. Without clear legal and ethical guidelines, the families of Hawaii are very vulnerable to persons holding themselves out to provide Marriage and Family Therapy who lack education, training or experience to provide this mental health service without intentional or unintentional irreparable harm done to them.

I receive referrals from private physicians, insurance companies, and work organizations. I receive these referrals based on licensure as an MFT. Most of my professional services are paid for by Hawaii insurance companies, including HMSA, AlohaCare, Medicaid, TriCare. If MFTs were no longer licensed in Hawaii, then most of the individuals and families I provide mental health services to would be unable to access my services or those from another qualified Marriage and Family Therapist in a timely manner. In these difficult economic times most could not afford to pay privately. And, again, MFTs are the only licensed practitioners with specialized training in marriage and family therapy. It would be very likely that my business would close.

I humbly and respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 482-0994 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Stevens, MA, MFT

Sheree D. Revilla, MS, CSAC
46-010 Aliikane Place, #211
Kaneohe, HI 96744
February 17, 2010

Testimony by:
Sheree D. Revilla, MS, CSAC
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Sheree D. Revilla, MS, CSAC, and I am a care coordinator at a major Hawaii health insurance provider. My program provides referrals and case management services to thousands of individuals, couples, families, work organizations, schools, state agencies, and health care systems within the state. These services include psychiatric, psychotherapeutic, consulting, employee assistance, and chemical dependency. I provide these services as a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor and a master's level mental health professional.

I am currently preparing for the Hawaii Marriage and Family Therapist licensing exam in May/June after years of schooling and preparation here in Hawaii. I, as well as my employer, have been waiting for my licensing as an MFT with great anticipation in order to move forward with my professional goals. I was devastated to hear of this new bill that might eliminate my opportunity to become a license mental health professional after years of preparation, education, and financial sacrifice. MFTs are the only licensed practitioners specifically trained in marriage and family therapy.

As a professional, I receive member inquiries daily for providers who are marriage and family therapists. I also receive referrals from within the statewide public school system for assessments for substance abusing, behavioral adolescents and their families. The professionals whom I refer to are mostly MFT and CSAC. Again, MFTs are the only licensed professionals with specialized training in marriage and family therapy, many who also specialize in treating substance abuse as a family disease.

Further, MFTs provide a much needed referral source for a full range of mental health and substance abuse services for the more remote outer islands areas where mental health resources are sparse and, at times, they are the only mental health provider servicing that area; helping individuals, couples, and families with concerns such as domestic violence, drug abuse, relationship distress, family problems, and teen pregnancy. If MFTs were no longer licensed in Hawaii, then virtually all of these affected families would be unable to receive quality health care from qualified specialists, since most have no transportation to travel distances for therapy or the funds to pay for services privately.

And, again, MFTs are the only licensed practitioners with specialized training in marriage and family therapy.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 220-8185 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee
February 17, 2010
Page 2

Sheree D. Revilla, MS, CSAC
Care Coordinator and Substance Abuse Counselor

Marcus R Oshiro, Rm 306, Fx: 586-6201
E-mail repmoshiro@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony by:
Shari Au, Ph.D.
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Shari Au. I am a licensed psychologist, studying Marriage and Family Therapy for it's unique interventions with highly resilient families. Marriage and Family Therapy is needed in Hawaii and any State with a prevalence of under-achieving youth. I worked in West Oahu one year and witnessed effects of domestic violence, spouse and child abuse, sex abuse, neglect, abandonment, 1/3 of Waianae High School girls pregnant or having already had a child by graduation. Family dysfunction, welfare, homelessness, economic impoverishment is trans-generational as witnessed by hundreds camped on beaches and in shelters. Every incoming kindergarten class functions lower than the prior year's class.

Family therapy is desperately needed for these families. Working with individual children or with one parent is insufficient to change family dynamics, which ultimately rule the family members. The work of therapists in the schools has been to mediate learning disabilities, defiant behavior, and underachievement. The work that's needed is to restructure beliefs, family dynamics, values, and family rules. Based upon experience it appears that individual abusiveness is accepted, sustained within family structures considered functional. Since abusiveness is accepted, it is replicated trans-generationally by each sibling, in their families, among their children.

If Hawaii is ever to dig itself out of low SAT scores, low academic achievement, low national academic standing, family therapists are needed to work with restructuring entire families. It cannot be done one person at a time. It must be done families at a time. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy. I strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

I worked with the Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services as an ATS counselor. The average success of Addiction programs is 2-20% or an average of 12%. MFT addresses family of origin cause versus symptoms of substance abuse, with which Minuchin worked 30 years with high success. The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. Eliminating MFT licensure in Hawaii eliminates military jobs for many Island residents during this recession where the military represents a singular hiring source.

I request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 526-0388 for additional information if needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Shari Au, Ph.D.

Testimony by:

Steven C. Osiecki, MA, MBA, MFT

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing – Friday, February 19, 2010

Room 308 – 11:00 a.m. Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Steve Osiecki. I have been a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) in the State of Hawaii since 2002 . I am a past president of the Hawaii Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (HAMFT), a current member of HAMFT and a member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (AAMFT). I have taught graduate level Marriage and Family Therapy courses at both Chaminade University and Argosy University.

- Please know that MANY jobs currently held by Hawaii licensed MFTs will go to mainland personnel if MFTs here are not allowed to practice.
- Please know that there are over 200 licensed MFTs in Hawaii, which means the **mental health care of thousands of Hawaii residents will be jeopardized** if MFTs are not allowed to practice here.
- This bill would be a **big step backward for Hawaii's economy**, as this bill would put hundreds of Hawaii-licensed MFTs out of work.
- Currently MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health in all 50 states. This bill would be a step backward for residents of Hawaii, a step backward for thousands of Hawaii residents currently receiving mental health care, a step backward for our economy as it would put potentially hundreds of MFTs out of jobs, and a step backward for many local students and interns currently studying for licensure as an MFT.

The people of Hawaii now trust and expect that a marriage and family therapist provides professional and reputable services. If MFTs lose licensure, the risk increases that services for treatment of drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity, dementia and marital distress will be compromised either by lack of providers or that substandard, unlicensed providers may provide services that do not meet the profession's high standards of evidence-based practice.

Respectfully,

Stephen C. Osiecki

Stephen C. Osiecki

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist (Therapy Intern, Student, Friend, etc), I'm writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

As a graduate level medical provider working in what is designated by the Federal Government as a "medically underserved area" in East Hawaii I am shocked that such a bill is before you. As individuals are losing medical and financial benefits during a devastating economic time you are going to remove a behavioral health service keeping many from medically jamming up state hospitals and emergency rooms.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because they provided psychotherapy within a relational and family framework. MFT's are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. MFT's have been filling in the gaps in services to the community providing as a result of Hawaii's cutbacks in Adult Mental Health Services effecting communities state wide.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lenard Allen, MA
University of Hawaii Hilo Research and Graduate Studies
200 W. Kawili St. EKH 277
Hilo, HI 96720

VIRGINIA JONES

444 Auwina Place, Kailua, HI 96734 808-226-3436
mytherapistvirginia@gmail.com

Testimony by:

Virginia Jones
LMFT, LMHC, NCC, CSAC, SAP
AAMFT Approved Supervisor

HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Friday 19 Feb 2010
Rm 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: OPPOSE

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Virginia Jones, LMFT, LMHC, NCC, CSAC, SAP. I am a licensed marriage and family therapist practicing in the state of Hawaii and a member of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), of which I am also an Approved Supervisor.

Because I have a marriage and family license, I work full time for the Department of Defense at Tripler Army Medical Center, providing mental health services to active duty and retired personnel as well as their family members. I am an Adjunct Professor at Chaminade University, teaching marriage and family classes to graduate students in marriage and family. I also carry a small caseload with the Counseling and Spiritual Care Center of Hawaii, providing services to members of our community who are coping with various mental health issues including substance abuse problems in the family as well as domestic violence, grief, and trauma, to name only a few. Finally, as a SAP for the DOT, I help keep our highways, oceans, and skies free of unhealthy individuals who work in safety sensitive positions. As you can see, I am a very busy marriage and family therapist, and I am very grateful to have the opportunities to work in a field I love and in one that helps families in need learn to address crises involving loved ones.

This is why I am perplexed and deeply disturbed to learn of the plan for HB 2029 to destroy all of the work that my colleagues and I have worked so hard to attain, to produce, and to provide for our community. Reading HB 2029, the language and interpretation in the revision is one that will set the profession back decades and will wreak havoc on our state's mental health service delivery system.

Marriage and Family Therapists are the only trained clinical professionals who focus on systems through interventions at various entry points. Our general therapeutic goal is to help restore a family system to one that functions in a healthy way or to help a dysfunctional system recreate itself to stop the cycles of abuse that may have been embedded for generations past.

As a profession, we are recognized by the Federal Government, including the VA and DOT, and Tricare. We are licensed or certified in 50 states as well as in many countries worldwide. If this bill passes, licensed MFT's will no longer be covered providers and other unlicensed or alternatively licensed providers (such as social workers) will be permitted to provide service completely outside their scope of practice. Our standards as a profession effectively act as a "gatekeeper"; keeping the language as is helps protect our community from unqualified practitioners and the real and potential consequences of their harm.

In reading Chapter 431M-1 (the Definitions section of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Insurance Benefits) of the HRS, I wonder why MFT's have been singled out for the removal of licensure and not any or all of our professional colleagues? It is imperative that MFT's retain independent licensure for ongoing credentialing in various mental health settings.

Rewording this section will have untold negative repercussions and I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapist in HRS 431M-1 be removed from HB 2029.

Please contact me at 808-433-6626 or 808-226-3436 should you have any questions or require any additional information. I trust that you will seriously consider the need to protect all consumers of mental health services; licensed marriage and family therapists are a core component to the service delivery system.

Mahalo.

Virginia Jones,
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Licensed Mental Health Counselor
National Certified Counselor
Certified Substance Abuse Counselor
DOT/Substance Abuse Professional
AAMFT Approved Supervisor

Margaret Bubon Smith, MA, MFT
PO Box 351
Lawai, Hawaii 96765
(808) 332 – 5200

Testimony Regarding HB 2029, Professions & Occupations
Position – Opposed to Passage as Currently Constituted

House FIN Hearing: Friday Feb.19, 2010
Agenda Item #2

Chair Marcus Oshiro & Members of the House Finance Committee:

The purpose of this letter is to request that the language to repeal Hawaii's regulation of Marriage & Family Therapists be removed from HB 2029.

The importance of state regulation of Marriage & Family Therapists is the oversight and mandate of minimum requirements required of those who offer to provide marriage and family therapy in public and private agencies through out the state.

State regulation helps prevent unqualified and unethical individuals from practicing as Marriage & Family Therapists thereby protecting the public from possible harm.

I am a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist who has worked on Kauai for nearly 2 decades. I am currently employed by a private non-profit agency as a therapist and program administrator. My responsibilities cover programs dealing with families in the Child Welfare System (CWS), adults and teens in recovery from substance abuse and free counseling services to any parent in our community. I also provide consultation to para-professionals who provide direct services to school age children that qualify for counseling at school.

I am grateful for the opportunity to give input on HB 2029. If you would like any further information or have any questions I can be reached at the above number or at work at 808- 245-9514.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Bubon Smith, MA, MFT, SAP, RPT-S
Hawaii MFT License # 27

Testimony by:
Sharon Vea, M.A.(in process of sitting for my M.F.T. license in Hawaii)
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Sharon Vea, and I am currently an employee of the State of Hawaii, my position is Family Support Specialist IV. I work with many psychotherapeutic specialists in the community as well as the school system to help meet the needs of special needs students and their families. My position works with community based profit and non profit agencies to accommodate our ever growing challenges of our Westside community here on Kauai. My advanced degree and family, individual and community work here on Kauai has blessed me with my current position.

My position as owner of a therapeutic agency was alleviated after six years because I was unable to accommodate clients with an opportunity to afford my expertise by offering third party reimbursement. My clients and their families' were for the most part court appointed and considered an invaluable resource for Kauai as a whole and the Westside population in the ninety percentile. I was an approved vendor by District Court as well as both State and Federal agencies. My business Alternative Solutions, LLC, was able to offer Marriage, Family, Individual, Group therapy as well as Anger Management classes; a full menu agency.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 635-3543 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Sharon A. Vea, M.A.

Julia I. Swigart,
Co-owner and Office Manager

Keiko Niwa

364 Seaside Avenue #1302, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

(808) 554-8628, keikonwhi@hotmail.com

Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Committee:

Hello, my name is Keiko Niwa. I am originally from Japan. I studied in the United States and became a marriage and family therapist. And, I now, as a resident of Hawaii, have my own private practice in Honolulu. I am writing this letter because I strongly **OPPOSE** the bill **HB2029** that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J).

In order to become a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, I have made a tremendous effort last 10 years with a unspeakable struggle with language difficulty studying in a foreign language: I attended a university in New York to study psychology, did graduate studies, had a one year practicum, 2 year's supervision. After this, I studied extensively to pass licensure exam, again. Finally now, with 3 years experience and license, I became eligible to become a provider as a mental healthcare practitioner.

I have had my own private practice to work with Japanese client. I rented my office in Hawaii Medical Ueno Clinic. Last year, this clinic was suddenly closed their practice. After this, I received telephone calls from my clients whom I had not seen for a while. They worried what happened to me, wondered whether I also close my practice. Some of them say that they were shocked to think there might be no more place to go for counseling. Some of them asked "don't go back to Japan or New York City. Please stay in Hawaii." One girl said "because you are here I can turn to you when things get really bad. So, I can keep going. So, please open your private practice again."

For people from Japan, they have a strong refusal to seek help in psychiatric department. They still think psychiatry is a place for "crazy (sorry to say) people" go. On the other hand, there are a lot of Japanese people who has adjustment disorders due to difficulties from language difficulties, college work, adjusting to foreign systems, societies and friends or new relatives, international marriage, and so on. Having dreamed in living in the Paradise and moved to Hawaii, there are a lot of Japanese people found themselves depressed. They need help.

I recently passed the licensure exam and in the process of becoming a provider. In this tough economic time, many of my clients are not able to come without insurance reimbursement. Those are asking me to let them know as soon as I can accept their medical insurance. I have pictures of their faces in my mind fighting so hard. **Please do not abandon those people! They need a marriage and family therapist. Please do not pass HB2029.**

Trev McGrath, MFT
7860 Kula Highway, Kula, HI 96790
808 268-5159 trevmcgrath@msn.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee

Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00a.m.

Measure #: HB2029

Position: OPPOSED

Copies needed: 2

February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations / **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the House Finance Committee:

As a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the State of Hawaii, **I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and urge you to vote against its passage within your committee.** I have worked for a variety of agencies on Maui and Hawaii, including the Department of Health, the Department of Education, Child and Family Services, and the Maui Farm residential facility. I am currently employed by the Department of Education as a Behavioral Health Specialist at our local high school where I treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders. I also have a private practice after school where I work to strengthen couples and families, helping them to change their behavioral patterns so that solutions to their problems can be found. In my many years of working with Hawaii's children and their families, one thing has been most evident and that is the lack of good quality mental health resources available in our rural areas. If this bill passes there will be even fewer.

MFTs are recognized and licensed in all 50 of these United States. Our Federal government has designated Marriage and Family Therapy as a "core mental health profession" together with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing. What I do not understand about this HB 2029 is why are we master's level professionals in the mental health field being included in a bill regarding barbers and cosmetologists, athlete agents, hearing aid dealers and fitters, and electrologists? I do not know whether these other honorable professions need to be regulated, but I do know that my profession and the clients we serve are substantially better off with our profession being regulated. If this bill passes as written, Hawaii would be the only state in our nation without some form of government oversight of the Marriage and Family Therapy profession.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. **I ask for your support by voting against HB 2029 on the grounds that it is not in the best interest of the many families of Hawaii in need of mental health support.**

Sincerely,

Trev McGrath, MFT

February 17, 2010

Testimony by: Elizabeth Kong

RE: HB 2029 Professions and occupations

House FIN Hearing-Fri. Feb 19, 2010

Room 308-11:00am

Agenda Item @2

Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Finance Committee

My name is Elizabeth Kong, M.A., M.F.T, LSC, and RPT-S and am currently a School Counselor within the Department of Education for close to 20 years. As part of my duties within the Department of Education I provide counseling to children and work with their families in an educational setting to address various needs within the family which impact children at school. In addition, I have acted as a Practicum site supervisor for both Chaminade, Argosy and the University of Hawaii Master's degree level students seeking degrees in Counseling and Marriage Family Studies for the past 10 years. Every day, I see family issues such as divorce, separations, grief, substance abuse, family discord, family violence, and as well as other family related issues touch children in the school setting. Having a professional license in Marriage Family Counseling in the school setting helps me understand the children from a family system perspective and thus I can plan interventions not for the child and the family. By impacting the children, we touch the family who also reaches into our communities and beyond. Without Licensed Marriage Family Therapists in all settings, our ability to touch people's lives is compromised as the need intensifies and the resources are dispersed. Therefore, I oppose deregulation of our profession as Marriage Family Therapists who serve the unique needs of the communities in which we serve. Respectfully submitted. Thank you.

Catherine A. Bruns, MFT

970 N. Kalaheo Ave. Ste A-211

Kailua, HI 96734

(808) 263-1244

catherinebruns@gmail.com

Testimony by:

Catherine Bruns, MFT

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010

Room 308 – 11:00 am

Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Catherine Bruns and I am a licensed MFT. In addition to being the President-Elect of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), I have a private practice in Kailua.

I strongly oppose HB 2029 as it would have a detrimental impact on my ability to serve the public as a Marriage and Family Therapist. In my practice over the last 4 years I have provided treatment and support to over 200 individuals and couples who are struggling with their relationships. At least 70% of my clientele over the years has been with military personnel and their families. These families have been dealing with the devastation that years of long deployments and uncertainty regarding loved one's safety has brought. There has been a noted increase in divorce and family struggle over the last few years as the United States Military has been engaged in war efforts. As an MFT I, and other MFTs, are uniquely trained and skilled at assisting these military families to navigate the difficulties that our current times have brought upon them. I would hate to know that these families would go unserved and unsupported during such critical times in their lives.

I also have provided strong support to and worked collaboratively with psychiatrists and psychologists in our community. While these professionals have treated the individuals, I have provided treatment and support of the marriage or relationship. When someone is experiencing a mental health crisis, or suffers from a more chronic mental health diagnosis (like depression), their relationships are also critically affected. When treatment is provided in such a team approach, it is more likely that the individual will improve, as their relationship becomes more supportive and effective.

The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) needs. It often has been the presence of PTSD in a service member that has created severe family and relationship difficulties in those families that I have and continue to serve.

MFT's have been licensed in Hawaii for many years, and are well integrated into the service provision sectors of our community. In addition to providing service privately, as I do, MFTs serve Hawaii's families through our local non-profit agencies, as well as governmental departments such as the Departments of Education and Health. If MFTs are no longer licensed in our state, there will certainly be a ripple effect upon those agencies/departments and those Hawaii citizens that they provide service to. In some cases non-profit agencies require a licensed professional to provide service as they then are able to bill insurance for payment.

I am very concerned what will happen to the hundreds of MFTs in our state if we are no longer licensed. This will mean for me that I will no longer be able to receive third party payment for my service, or be contracted by payers who require a license. This will essentially close the doors of my practice and render me unemployed. This not only denies treatment and support to the current and future families who I serve, but adds me, and likely other MFTs, to the long list of Hawaii's unemployed. In this time of high unemployment it does not seem wise to take an action to increase that state while our nation is doing everything it can to reduce the ranks of the unemployed and return them to work.

Research has shown that MFTs are effective in their treatment, desired by the public, and have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in all 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.

Why would the State of Hawaii be the only state in the nation to deny its citizens such an effective and essential service? If you or one of your family members was having a struggle with a relationship, wouldn't you want a professional who was highly skilled and trained in just that area? Eliminating the licensure of MFTs in Hawaii would be the same as eliminating the ability for medical professionals to treat in their trained specialties.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 263-1244 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Catherine Bruns, MFT

Testimony by:

Dr. Vince Edwards Nubla, Ph.D., M.F.T
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Dear Sir/Madam:

Hello, my name is Dr. Vince Edwards Nubla, PhD, MFT. I have been a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Hawaii for ten years. It is through rigorous training, and then the validation of this training by obtaining and maintaining licensure, that has made the last ten years rewarding for me in treating mental and emotional illnesses in how they are caused by serious family discord and, cyclically, how they exacerbate serious family discord.

I am very much in opposition of HB 2029. Below are the following reasons:

*The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services.

*Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

*The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services including, but not limited to: 1. individual psychotherapy; 2. relationship counseling; 3. family therapy; 4. work-related consultation; 5. substance abuse professional evaluations; 6. child custody evaluation; 7. school counseling; and more. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy.

*Marriage and Family Therapy is a science driven, research based profession comprised of mental health practitioners trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems. MFTs specialize in treating mental disorders within the context of relationships. MFTs work with the individual, couple, or family to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved.

*MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists

*MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends.

Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.

*The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.

*MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (3). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (4). Including Family Therapists in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.

*MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

*Finally, your physician would refer you for marriage and family therapy services if you, or a family member, had a family crisis, potential relationship breakup, family substance abuse problem, or adolescent emergency. The MFT would work with you on the resolution of your relationship or family problems. However, if this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated. Major insurance carriers, such as HMSA and AlohaCare, along with Medicaid; and other 3rd party payers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 633-3103 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vince Edwards Nubla, PhD, LMFT
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Hawaii License #: LMFT-72

*Lynn Pizzitola, MFT

*

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing - Fri. Feb. 19, 2010

Room 308 - 11:00 am

Agenda Item #2

*Position: Oppose

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Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Lynn Pizzitola, M.A., MFT. I have been licensed in Hawaii since 2001. I currently have a private practice in Lihue, HI., seeing individuals, couples and families. I help my clients with marriage and parenting issues, and work to strengthen families and individuals.

I am also employed as a Qualified Mental Health Professional for 3 Hawaiian agencies, Hale Opio, Kauai; Hale Kipa, and Care Hawaii. Care Hawaii has the contract for Crisis Services through the Access Line, Hale Opio and Hale Kipa serve youth with intensive in home services to prevent placement of the youth outside the home, and therapeutic foster homes.

I receive referrals from physicians and other health care practitioners who rely on my skills.

I rely on my license, and thus my practice and jobs to be able to live in Hawaii. My clients rely on me for a large measure of their well-being.

MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.

MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict - are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and

Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.

*

*

I strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. **I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 634-8258 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Mr. Lynn Pizzitola, MFT

Shelley Shane, MA, MFT
P. O. Box 494
Kailua Kona, HI 96745-0494
Phone (808) 895-0090 Fax (808) 325-2599

Testimony by:

Shelley Shane, MA, MFT

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010

Room 308 – 11:00 am

Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Shelley Shane, MA, MFT. I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Kailua-Kona. I am a former Board Member, and current member, of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). HAMFT represents 315 licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) in the State of Hawaii. MFTs work in a variety of agencies and settings within our state including, but not limited to: the Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; active duty military and their families; U.S. Department of Transportation; rural areas; families and communities; hospital and clinic systems; substance abuse treatment centers; and mental health practices.

It has come to my attention that HB 2029 is going to be heard by your committee on Friday February 19, 2010. This bill would eliminate Marriage and Family Therapists' eligibility for DCCA regulated licensure in the State of Hawaii. Currently MFTs are regulated and licensed in all 50 United States of America.

I am respectfully, and urgently, requesting that Marriage and Family Therapists be removed from this bill. Passing HB 2029 with the inclusion of MFTs would be

harmful to our community members. At this time of economic and emotional hardship the potential for harm is greater than at any other time.

MFTs in Hawaii currently are able to accept Quest Medicaid payments, and, in fact, the largest percentage of my private counseling clients represent this underserved population.

Please remove Marriage and Family Therapists from HB 2029 today.

Thank you very much for taking care of this very important matter.

With Respect and Aloha,

Shelley Shane, MA, MFT

Testimony by:
Maite Anasagasti Robles, M.F.T
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Maite Anasagasti Robles, M.F.T., and I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) in the State of Hawaii. I currently practice in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

I strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. However, with de-regulation, there is the potential for Marriage and Family Therapists who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii and, in the worst case scenario, an individual could establish her/his own practice and claim that they provide Marriage and Family Therapy services; when, in fact, she/he may not have the professional qualifications which could clearly lead to consumer harm. Further, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 315-7265 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Maite Anasagasti Robles, M.F.T.



Jennifer Cartwright MFT

808-234-3445

LMFT #186

Dear Honorable Oshiro and Finance Committee Members,

2/17/2010

OPPOSING HB2029

My name is Jennifer Cartwright and I have been a licensed Marital and Family therapist in two states for over ten years. I LOVE my profession and it is my only lively hood. This state is my state of birth and my family. I find that helping the state and it's communities to be the most rewarding in my life.

I am OPPOSED to the upcoming bill HB2029 because this would make much needed treatment for children and adults from multiple cultures and backgrounds in the state impossible. This bill must be opposed to allow the people of Hawai'i the opportunity to choose their health care providers with specific focuses on their needs. In addition MFT rates are substantially less than other practitioners saving the state millions of dollars a year. Hawai'i is well known as providing some of the best mental health treatment in the country. Let's keep it that way!

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this change.

Sincerely Jennifer Cartwright MFT CFE

98-211 Pali Momi St. #707

Hialeah, Fl. 96701

354 Uluniu St. #412

Kailua, Hi. 96734

Testimony by:
Deborah Chavez, Ph.D., M.F.T.
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and working toward licensure as a licensed psychologist. I have lived and practiced therapy in Kailua Kona on the Big Island for over 20 years, and the importance of marriage and family therapists is critical to the welfare of my community. The rural communities are suffering during this economic crisis on both financial and emotional levels, affecting the marriages, relationships, and families.

The elimination of MFT's in my community would decrease mental health service delivery and negatively affect the families who are already trying to cope with financial stressors. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy. MFTs specialize in treating mental disorders within the context of relationships. MFTs work with the individual, couple, or family to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved.

On a state level, the Hawaii Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT) represents 315 licensed Marriage and Family Therapists within the State. The elimination of 315 direct mental health service providers would negatively impact the islands. Mental health services have been cut drastically throughout the state, and eliminating a large group of licensed, trained professionals does not serve the state or the families it represents. The 315 licensed MFT's work in a variety of services including

- The Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Active duty military and their families
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- Rural communities
- Hospital and community medical & mental health clinic systems
- Substance abuse treatment centers
- Mental health practices.

The science-driven, research based profession of marriage and family therapy is recognized by The Federal government as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs provide mental

health and substance abuse services including (but not limited to); individual counseling, relationship counseling, family therapy, work-related consultation, substance abuse professional evaluations, child custody evaluation, and school counseling.

I strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy (1) protects consumers from unqualified MFT practitioners and (2) protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. The ethical standards of practice for MFT practitioners in Hawaii are commensurate with the ethical standards of licensed psychologists in Hawaii.

De-regulation offers the potential for unlicensed MFT's (or MFT's who may have had their licenses revoked in other states) to practice in Hawaii. Licensure allows protection of the consumer. Without MFT licensure, our families in Hawaii would be exposed to the potential of practitioners claiming marriage and family counseling without professional qualifications. The consumer would not have any recourse if unethical practices or harm occurred. Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

Research and personal experience shows that MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions, including psychiatry (Bergman, 2004). Studies have shown that rural communities, which make up 15.5% of all counties in the United States, have twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (Bergman). Including MFT's in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states.

MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In Hartley, et. al.'s (2002) recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions.

Without licensure, which allows for third party reimbursement, families and individuals would not be able to utilize their medical insurance benefits for counseling services. Throughout the state, families are increasingly utilizing their mental health benefits to help during this difficult economic climate. As an example, due to the long distances between communities and availability of providers on the Big Island, families are unable to go to their therapy appointments because they cannot afford gas to travel to town. Many families are not be able to pay out of their pocket for therapy services. If this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits as the profession would not be regulated. Major insurance carriers, including HMSA, AlohaCare, MedQuest, Medicaid, TriWest, and other 3rd party payers, recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. If additional information is need, please contact me at (808) 322-9288. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Deborah Chavez, Ph.D., M.F.T.

References

Bergman, D. (2004). Marriage and family therapists serving rural clients. *Family Therapy Magazine, November-December* (33).

Hartley, et. al. (2002). State licensure laws and the mental health professions: Implication for the rural mental health workforce. *Maine Rural Health Research Center*. Maine: Portland.

Testimony by:
Jacy L. Campbell
HB 2029 Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Rm. 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Jacy L. Campbell and I am the Student Representative for the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). The HAMFT represents Marriage and Family Therapists who are clinical, associate, student, and affiliate members who work in a variety of settings. As an MFT student, I foresee many opportunities in the mental health field. MFT's explore creative therapeutic solutions that focus on the family and collaborate with other professionals to work toward strengthening our community. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychology, social work, psychiatry, and psychiatric nursing. Further, licensed or certified MFT's provide mental health services in 50 states.

I look forward to serving families in need as a licensed MFT and humbly ask that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB 2029.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 265-9769.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Jacy L. Campbell
HAMFT Student Representative

Crystal Scurr, LMFT #146

Testimony by:

Crystal Scurr, M.F.T #146

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010

Room 308 – 11:00 am

Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am Crystal Scurr, and have been licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist since 1995 in California and since 2005 in Hawaii. Although I have worked in several agencies and settings in Hawaii, I currently practice independently as a licensed clinician in private practice where I am of service in diagnosing and treating the mental health issues of children, adolescents, adults, couples and families.

As 99% of the people who are suffering and in pain utilize health insurance to pay for my professional expertise and services, I strongly oppose this bill that would in effect destroy my business and livelihood and that of my fellow Marriage and Family Therapists. You see if this bill were implemented, my professional services would no longer be covered benefits due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated. Major insurance carriers, such as HMSA and AlohaCare, along with Medicaid; and other 3rd party payers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals.

Presently MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in **all** 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing. In fact, MFTs are the *only* mental health professionals required to be trained in family therapy. Implementing this bill would mean Hawaii would be the only state in the entire nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

I respectfully request language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Crystal Scurr, L.M.F.T, S.A.P, C.S.A.C

**Zoe Avalon, B.S.
P.O. Box 2143
Pahoa, HI. 96778**

Testimony by:

**Zoe A. Avalon , B.S., M.A. candidate 2010, marriage and family therapy
Argosy University
HB 2029 HD1, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Position: Oppose**

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Zoe A. Avalon , B.S., M.A. candidate 2010, marriage and family therapy and student member of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). HAMFT represents 315 licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) in the State of Hawaii. MFTs work in a variety of agencies and settings within our state including, but not limited to: the Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; active duty military and their families; U.S. Department of Transportation; rural areas; families and communities; hospital and clinic systems; substance abuse treatment centers; and mental health practices.

I have been employed as a paraprofessional by The Institute for Family Enrichment since 2002 and have spent \$20,000 for my education at an accredited university in the state of Hawaii to acquire a degree in marriage and family therapy, thereby increasing my capacity to serve children and families in Hawaii. With the passage of HB2029 HD1 my career and wealth of experience in the state of Hawaii will no longer have the professional regulation necessary for consumer safety and will no longer be considered a marketable profession within the scope of practice for which it is intended. Personally, I and many other highly trained, working professionals will be at risk for unemployment in the state of Hawaii, possibly being forced to seek employment outside of Hawaii, and contributing additional fiscal strain on the Hawaii state government by potentially adding a few hundred professionals as recipients to unemployment compensation. Many agencies, professionals, individuals and clients will suffer.

I feel it is important to point out that in the list of vocations to be deregulated by HB2029 HD1, marriage and family therapists are the only ones required to have a Master's degree. Licensing for barbers and cosmetologists, athlete agents, hearing aid dealers and fitters, and electrologists do not require even a bachelor's degree and are only comparable in the requirement of supervised training hours prior to licensure. Marriage and Family Therapists should not be included in this bill.

Marriage and Family Therapy is a science driven, research based profession comprised of mental health practitioners trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat

mental health and substance abuse problems. Training and licensing in this profession requires a Master of Arts degree in marriage and family therapy in addition to 1500 supervised hours of direct service prior to licensure. According to HRS §451J-7 Application for licensure,

Any person who files an application with the department after December 31, 1998, shall be issued a license by the department if the applicant provides satisfactory evidence to the department that the applicant is qualified for licensure pursuant to the requirements of this chapter and meets the following qualifications:

- (1) Has completed a master's degree or doctoral degree from an accredited educational institution in marriage and family therapy or in an allied field related to the practice of mental health counseling which includes or is supplemented by graduate level course work comprising a minimum of thirty-three semester, or forty-four quarter hours in the following course areas:***
 - (A) Marriage and family studies - nine semester or twelve quarter hours;*
 - (B) Marriage and family therapy studies - nine semester or twelve quarter hours;*
 - (C) Human development - nine semester or twelve quarter hours;*
 - (D) Ethical and professional studies - three semester or four quarter hours; and*
 - (E) Research - three semester or four quarter hours;*
- (2) Has one year practicum with three hundred hours supervised client contact;***
- (3) Completes one thousand hours of direct marriage and family therapy, and two hundred hours clinical supervision in not less than twenty-four months; and***
- (4) Has passed the National Marriage and Family Therapy Exam in accordance with section 451J-8.***

I strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. However, with de-regulation, there is the potential for Marriage and Family Therapists who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii and, in the worst case scenario, an individual could establish her/his own practice and claim that they provide Marriage and Family Therapy services; when, in fact, she/he may not have the professional qualifications which could clearly lead to consumer harm. Further, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession. Hawaii State will be at great risk for credibility and integrity regarding concern for the well being of its citizens, another step backwards at a time when forward momentum in healthcare is essential.

Thank you for your careful consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,
Zoe Avalon, B.S.

I, Angela McInvale, oppose the proposed piece of legislature, HB2029, that would eliminate MFT licensure in the state of Hawaii. I am a member of the recent MFT graduate from Argosy University – Honolulu as well as a member of the Ewa Beach community. Hawaii has an established MFT community, including professionals, education institutions, a professional organization and a wealth of clients. If HB2029 is passed and MFT licensure eliminate, it would be detrimental to our community.

Donna Charron, MA, MFT
Kawaihau Rd Kapaa, HI 96746

(808)635-7403 6395
donna@donnacharron.com

Testimony by:
Donna Charron, MA, MFT
Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed

February 17, 2010

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:
Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Donna Charron, MA, MFT, and I am a sex assault therapist at the YWCA of Kauai and I am also in private practice. I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and to request your vote against its passage within your committee.

As a Hawaii licensed MFT I provide assessment, diagnosis and psychotherapeutic services to adults, children, couples, and families. Like my MFT colleagues, I worked hard for many years to qualify for and then pass the national exam needed for licensure so that I could provide quality service to members of my community. I consider this a major personal accomplishment of which I am proud. I belong to the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists as a clinical member; licensure gives me that status. As a member of the AAMFT, I am governed by its Code of Ethics. These facts help the consumer know they are trusting in the care of a professional.

Without licensure, there will be no vendorship for MFTs, limiting the choice of those who want to use their insurance benefits for behavioral health issues. Perhaps your committee is unaware that there is a shortage of qualified mental health professionals to serve the people of Kauai. To deregulate MFTs will be to increase that shortage and to leave the community at a disadvantage and some MFTs out of business.

On behalf of other MFTs, my community and myself, I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely
Donna Charron, MA, MFT
Hawaii License: MFT 200

To: Honorable Chair Oshiro, & Members of the House Finance Committee
Honolulu, O'ahu

From: Testimony By: Jan Fradenburg, MA, MFT
Marriage & Family Therapist, Treatment Provider / Private Practice
P. O. Box 1051 / Kailua-Kona HI 96745
(808) 345-2429 Cell / 325-1313 Fax
jfradenburgmft@aol.com

Date: February 17, 2010

Re: House Bill 2029, Professions & Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Friday February 10, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00AM
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Dear Legislator/Committee Member:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am writing in **opposition of House Bill 2029**, which seeks to de-regulate and eliminate licensure and vendorship for Marriage & Family Therapists (MFTs). As an MFT who practices and lives in Kailua-Kona, Big Island, I am concerned about access to behavioral health care for all constituents, especially those residing in rural areas and on Neighbor Islands. Marriage & Family Therapists have been licensed in Hawai'i since our licensure bill was first passed by our legislature in 1998, and have had vendorship since our vendorship bill was passed by our legislature in 2007. We hope Hawai'i will not decide to become the only exception to the other 50 states of this country, the federal government, Canada, and others who have recognized and reimbursed MFTs for their professional services for some time. I became licensed as a Marriage & Family Therapist in California in 1979, and back then could already take the primary health insurance (Blue Cross, Blue Shield, similar to HMSA). Over 31 years later, Hawai'i MFTs (and their many current and potential clients) are being endangered by this bill with regard to their ability to maintain their licensure and vendorship.

MFTs are licensed in Hawai'i and throughout our country to diagnose and treat mental disorders, and are specifically trained to treat families, unlike any other category of licensed mental health providers. In my private practice and within the practices of my colleagues, I have heard many accounts of clients being unable to secure mental health services due to the lack of professionals available to serve them, and inconsistent transitions when they were released from treatment (tx) facilities, who were unable to continue treatment with their MFT due to insurance restrictions. Additionally, many of the psychologists and psychiatrists on the Big Island were full and had long waiting lists, before MFTs obtained vendorship; many professionals and parents here are still concerned about the lack of availability of child psychiatrists overwhelmed by the great need to treat the many children who are "in the system" here and deserve better.

Jan Fradenburg, MA, MFT

Page 2

We wish to note that MFTs are educated and trained in the treatment of a wide range of serious clinical problems, including various forms of mental illness, alcohol dependence, and substance abuse (e.g., "ice") issues. We also wish to point out that MFTs are also recognized by various agencies of the federal government as core mental health professionals, and are included among the mental health providers to which our many citizens serving in the military and their families have insurance benefit access. It is our understanding that the State of Hawai'i sponsors family therapy treatment through the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and the Judiciary.

My West Hawai'i, Big Island, treatment program (see page 1), is part of the larger Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program of Catholic Charities Hawai'i on O'ahu, which currently has State contracts to provide services to incest families, adult sex offenders, and adolescents with sexual behavior problems. Due to State budget problems, all of our programs are under-funded in terms of the ongoing, long-term treatment needs of those families and individuals. Frequently, child sexual abuse victims and adolescents with sexual behavior problems (overlapping populations) "age out" of "the system" before their treatment and probation are completed, making them more susceptible to substance abuse, promiscuity, criminal behavior, and other expensive and tragic problems. The Judiciary's juvenile sexual offender program in particular is not able to provide funding for family therapy, which "best-practice" standards indicate is most useful for youth with sexual behavior problems. On the Big Island, Maui, and O'ahu, these programs are staffed by licensed MFTs who would be unable to offer clinically standardized services to these families and individuals if licensure were unavailable in this State. If this situation were to transpire, it would be financially detrimental to the State of Hawai'i, reduce valuable support for the families, and endanger public safety.

Of course, MFTs will benefit if this bill is not passed, but ultimately, those who will benefit most are those families and children who need behavioral healthcare services, and who have previously struggled to obtain those services in any timely and/or sustained way. Many studies demonstrate the effectiveness of Marriage and Family Therapists in treating a wide variety of mental health problems, and evidence exists that shows MFTs to be a cost-effective alternative to other mental health providers. Access to behavioral health services is still a serious challenge in many parts of Hawai'i, especially in rural areas and the Neighbor Islands. Many of Hawai'i's citizens are still underserved with regard to qualified healthcare. **We respectfully request that you oppose House Bill 2920**, and thus continue your support of our ability to contribute to providing equal and sufficient access to behavioral healthcare for the families and children of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Jan Fradenburg, MA, MFT

Danny Yamada

98-099 Uao Place.
Aiea, HI 96701
(808) 478-9317
Dan.yamada@yahoo.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed

February 18, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist supporter, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

Many families, communities and professionals will be impacted by the committees decision in regards to the MFT profession, please consider the need for MFTs in Hawaii and allow them to continue the unique services they provide to the people in Hawaii and nationwide.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at (808) 478-9317

Sincerely,

Danny Yamada

Testimony by:
Madelyn M. Bruno-Kidani, MFTI
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Aloha Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Madelyn M. Bruno-Kidani, and I am a Marriage and Family Therapist Intern who will be eligible for licensure in September 2010. I am currently interning at a Community Health Center alongside outreach workers, care managers, social workers, therapists, medical doctors and nursing staff, to provide our community with quality integrated health care. The specialty that I provide as an MFTI to our community is very unique in that MFTs collaborate within the entire system of care, working with other professions and most importantly...with families and communities. Some of the agencies that I work together with outside of the Community Health Center include: Department of Human Services (Child Welfare Services), Department of Health (Adult and Child Mental Health), Department of Education (school counselors, teachers, principals, specialists), the court system (parole officers), foster care, substance abuse treatment programs and many other systems that are available to assist families in need.

I am fortunate to be born and raised on the Big Island, attaining a BA in Hawaiian Studies and a MA in Marriage and Family Therapy. I find that the MFT orientation goes very well with our 'family oriented' culture here in Hawai'i. There has been such an overwhelming positive response to this mode of therapy and I am so blessed to have this opportunity to give back to our community in this way, where I know that it is about making a difference and working together to improve the quality of the lives of our families and communities as a whole.

With that said, I strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). Passing this bill will cause a huge detriment to current and future families, as they will not be able to access family therapy services through their health insurance plans if Marriage and Family Therapy is no longer recognizable as a 'licensed' profession.

I am also very concerned of the harm that can potentially be done to our families and communities if the MFT profession is de-regulated. **Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy PROTECTS our 'ohana from unqualified practitioners!** Would you want someone unqualified to provide any type of professional service for your own family (your children, spouse, parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, or even yourself?). Also, regulation protects MFTs' rights to provide professional qualified services. MFTs are licensed and/or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. If this bill passes, Hawai'i would be the only state in the nation without some form of government oversight of the MFT profession.

I respectfully request that the clause 'licensed in marriage and family therapy practice in pursuant to 451J' be reinstated in to the definition of "marriage and family therapist".
Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Madelyn M. Bruno-Kidani, MFTI
Hamakua Health Center – Behavioral Health Services Department

John Threlfall, LMFT
56 Waianuenue Ave. #214
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
808-967-7613

To members of the House Finance Committee
RE: HB2029
Testimony in opposition to proposed bill

Honorable Representatives,

As a voter, and practicing Marriage and Family Therapist in Hilo, I strongly urge you to **not repeal chapter 451j** of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, which defines the profession, and the licensure requirements for Marriage and Family Therapists in Hawaii.

If you pass HB2029, as it is now written, you will be instantly destroying the livelihood of hundreds of MFT's in Hawaii, as well as thousands of therapeutic relationships with their patients. This will result in great harm to many who suffer from mental illness.

If the intention of this provision is to save money, I believe the result will be quite opposite, as the sudden loss of mental health services will result in more hospitalizations and/or increased resort to more expensive and possibly less effective psychiatric services.

It may also be the case that such a sudden and capricious legislative assault upon a profession that is respected and recognized in all 50 states, could open the state to costly litigation.

Such a sudden and unexplained elimination of an entire profession would surely prove embarrassing, and would tarnish our state's hard-won reputation for excellence in health-care.

In the interest of fairness, if there are any valid arguments (and I have not heard any) for eliminating MFT's, as a licensed and regulated profession, they would no doubt apply equally well to Social workers, Professional Counselors, Psychologists and Psychiatrists.

I implore you to consider this matter carefully, and do nothing in haste that could have grave consequences for so many of your constituents and fellow citizens.

Sincerely

John Threlfall, MA, LMFT

P. Joseph Sulla III, MA

Honokaa, HI

Testimony in Opposition of HB2029

I am writing to oppose bill #HB2029. In my 10 years of working in the social services on the Big Island, I have found that Marriage and Family Therapists are crucial assets to the Hawaii community. Family problems are central to many of the core issues troubling our community including education, crime and drug abuse. The unique perspective MFTs bring to therapy, due to their training in Family systems work, make them especially effective and well suited to treat the problems affecting Hawaii families. MFTs also allow a more affordable option for families in need.

In my opinion, Hawaii would be making a huge mistake by effectively ending the MFT profession in the state. Many people in need would be losing valuable support, and the state will sink deeper into a quagmire in terms of education and unemployment.

Please do not support bill 2029.

Thank you,

P. Joseph Sulla III, MA

Testimony by:
Chiyo Churchill, MFT
Therapist, Catholic Charities Hawaii
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
2 copies
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Chiyo Churchill and I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. I am employed by Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) to provide therapy for families that are referred to our Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program. I am one of two licensed Marriage and Family Therapists at CCH Therapeutic Services while at least 2 others will be licensed soon. Other areas that I specialize in are supporting women who experienced domestic violence, men who perpetrate domestic violence, marriage counseling and other transitional life problems.

I am proud to be licensed in a field that addresses the needs of families as well as individuals who are seen as part of a family, community, state and world. Marriage and Family Therapists recognize connectedness as a vital perspective important to our clients well being.

To provide the best care possible I work along side the Department of Human Services Child Welfare branch as well as with the Judiciary, Police and Probation Officers. As professionals we work together to keep the public safe and healthy.

The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veteran's treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs.

As you can see, Marriage and Family Therapists cover a wide range of mental health needs in the community. We would like to see the standards continue to be held high. Please oppose HB 2029 for the sake of those who use our services.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely, Chiyo Churchill, MFT
808-527-4477

Testimony by:
Michelle L. Geronimo
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Michelle Geronimo and I am a Training Coordinator for Farmers HI Insurance, but I offer this testimony as a concerned citizen in opposition to HB 2029 for 3 primary reasons:

1. Currently, all other 49 states have seen fit to require government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession. It does not pass my “common sense test” for Hawaii to be the only state in the union to not require compliance from and oversight for this community of trained professionals whose services are widely utilized by the population that they serve.
2. I have utilized the services of both MFT’s and Psychologists and have found the MFT’s to be every bit as skilled, competent, professional and effective, and in some cases more, as those who have the title “Dr.” in front of their name. I have seen several licensed Psychologists over the years with successful results, but I will tell you that it was an MFT, Susan Ray, who led me to a breakthrough in my emotional health one year ago that literally saved my life. Had Susan’s services not been covered under my insurance plan, which is what will happen if this bill passes, I would not have had the financial means to have availed myself of her services and I would, in all likelihood, be either very sick or dead by now. To not allow MFT’s protection and recognition under Hawaii Law does a disservice not only to the MFT’s, but more so to those of us that they serve.
3. I know several people who currently working towards becoming licensed MFT’s and I can tell you with no uncertainty that they amount of dedication, skill, knowledge, passion and compassion for humanity that is required for them to complete the rigorous educational process, makes them more than worthy to be considered mental health professionals, and the state must continue to treat them as such.

In a time when drug use is on the rise and society is coping with the ill effects on mental health of a social climate that is constantly changing due to technology, aging, and economic uncertainty, MFT’s provide a vital service to thousands of Hawaii residents with PROVEN results. I fail to understand the rationale behind this movement to de-legitimize their work.

I strongly oppose this bill and respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 728-6685 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Michelle L. Geronimo

Testimony by:**Steven C. Osiecki, MA, MBA, MFT**

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing – Friday, February 19, 2010

Room 308 – 11:00 a.m. Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Steve Osiecki. I have been a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) in the State of Hawaii since 2002. I am a past president of the Hawaii Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (HAMFT), a current member of HAMFT and a member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (AAMFT). I have taught graduate level Marriage and Family Therapy courses at both Chaminade University and Argosy University.

- Please know that MANY jobs currently held by Hawaii licensed MFTs will go to mainland personnel if MFTs here are not allowed to practice.
- Please know that there are over 200 licensed MFTs in Hawaii, which means the mental health care of thousands of Hawaii residents will be jeopardized if MFTs are not allowed to practice here.
- This bill would be a big step backward for Hawaii's economy, as this bill would put hundreds of Hawaii-licensed MFTs out of work.
- Currently MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health in all 50 states. This bill would be a step backward for residents of Hawaii, a step backward for thousands of Hawaii residents currently receiving mental health care, a step backward for our economy as it would put potentially hundreds of MFTs out of jobs, and a step backward for many local students and interns currently studying for licensure as an MFT.

The people of Hawaii now trust and expect that a marriage and family therapist provides professional and reputable services. If MFTs lose licensure, the risk increases that services for treatment of drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity, dementia and marital distress will be compromised either by lack of providers or that substandard, unlicensed providers may provide services that do not meet the profession's high standards of evidence-based practice.

Respectfully,

Stephen C. Osiecki

Stephen C. Osiecki

To: Honorable Chair Oshiro, & Members of the House Finance Committee
Honolulu, O'ahu

From: Testimony By: Jan Fradenburg, MA, MFT
Marriage & Family Therapist, Treatment Provider / Private Practice
P. O. Box 1051 / Kailua-Kona HI 96745
(808) 345-2429 Cell / 325-1313 Fax
jfradenburgmft@aol.com

Date: February 17, 2010

Re: House Bill 2029, Professions & Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Friday February 10, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00AM
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Dear Legislator/Committee Member:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am writing in **opposition of House Bill 2029**, which seeks to de-regulate and eliminate licensure and vendorship for Marriage & Family Therapists (MFTs). As an MFT who practices and lives in Kailua-Kona, Big Island, I am concerned about access to behavioral health care for all constituents, especially those residing in rural areas and on Neighbor Islands. Marriage & Family Therapists have been licensed in Hawai'i since our licensure bill was first passed by our legislature in 1998, and have had vendorship since our vendorship bill was passed by our legislature in 2007. We hope Hawai'i will not decide to become the only exception to the other 50 states of this country, the federal government, Canada, and others who have recognized and reimbursed MFTs for their professional services for some time. I became licensed as a Marriage & Family Therapist in California in 1979, and back then could already take the primary health insurance (Blue Cross, Blue Shield, similar to HMSA). Over 31 years later, Hawai'i MFTs (and their many current and potential clients) are being endangered by this bill with regard to their ability to maintain their licensure and vendorship.

MFTs are licensed in Hawai'i and throughout our country to diagnose and treat mental disorders, and are specifically trained to treat families, unlike any other category of licensed mental health providers. In my private practice and within the practices of my colleagues, I have heard many accounts of clients being unable to secure mental health services due to the lack of professionals available to serve them, and inconsistent transitions when they were released from treatment (tx) facilities, who were unable to continue treatment with their MFT due to insurance restrictions. Additionally, many of the psychologists and psychiatrists on the Big Island were full and had long waiting lists, before MFTs obtained vendorship; many professionals and parents here are still concerned about the lack of availability of child psychiatrists overwhelmed by the great need to treat the many children who are "in the system" here and deserve better.

Jan Fradenburg, MA, MFT

Page 2

We wish to note that MFTs are educated and trained in the treatment of a wide range of serious clinical problems, including various forms of mental illness, alcohol dependence, and substance abuse (e.g., "ice") issues. We also wish to point out that MFTs are also recognized by various agencies of the federal government as core mental health professionals, and are included among the mental health providers to which our many citizens serving in the military and their families have insurance benefit access. It is our understanding that the State of Hawai'i sponsors family therapy treatment through the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and the Judiciary.

My West Hawai'i, Big Island, treatment program (see page 1), is part of the larger Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program of Catholic Charities Hawai'i on O'ahu, which currently has State contracts to provide services to incest families, adult sex offenders, and adolescents with sexual behavior problems. Due to State budget problems, all of our programs are under-funded in terms of the ongoing, long-term treatment needs of those families and individuals. Frequently, child sexual abuse victims and adolescents with sexual behavior problems (overlapping populations) "age out" of "the system" before their treatment and probation are completed, making them more susceptible to substance abuse, promiscuity, criminal behavior, and other expensive and tragic problems. The Judiciary's juvenile sexual offender program in particular is not able to provide funding for family therapy, which "best-practice" standards indicate is most useful for youth with sexual behavior problems. On the Big Island, Maui, and O'ahu, these programs are staffed by licensed MFTs who would be unable to offer clinically standardized services to these families and individuals if licensure were unavailable in this State. If this situation were to transpire, it would be financially detrimental to the State of Hawai'i, reduce valuable support for the families, and endanger public safety.

Of course, MFTs will benefit if this bill is not passed, but ultimately, those who will benefit most are those families and children who need behavioral healthcare services, and who have previously struggled to obtain those services in any timely and/or sustained way. Many studies demonstrate the effectiveness of Marriage and Family Therapists in treating a wide variety of mental health problems, and evidence exists that shows MFTs to be a cost-effective alternative to other mental health providers. Access to behavioral health services is still a serious challenge in many parts of Hawai'i, especially in rural areas and the Neighbor Islands. Many of Hawai'i's citizens are still underserved with regard to qualified healthcare. **We respectfully request that you oppose House Bill 2920**, and thus continue your support of our ability to contribute to providing equal and sufficient access to behavioral healthcare for the families and children of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Jan Fradenburg, MA, MFT

Jan Fradenburg, MA, MFT

Zoe Avalon, B.S.
P.O. Box 2143
Pahoa, HI. 96778

Testimony by:
Zoe A. Avalon, B.S., M.A. candidate 2010, marriage and family therapy
Argosy University
HB 2029 HD1, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Zoe A. Avalon, B.S., M.A. candidate 2010, marriage and family therapy and student member of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). HAMFT represents 315 licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) in the State of Hawaii. MFTs work in a variety of agencies and settings within our state including, but not limited to: the Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; active duty military and their families; U.S. Department of Transportation; rural areas; families and communities; hospital and clinic systems; substance abuse treatment centers; and mental health practices.

I have been employed as a paraprofessional by The Institute for Family Enrichment since 2002 and have spent \$20,000 for my education at an accredited university in the state of Hawaii to acquire a degree in marriage and family therapy, thereby increasing my capacity to serve children and families in Hawaii. With the passage of HB2029 HD1 my career and wealth of experience in the state of Hawaii will no longer have the professional regulation necessary for consumer safety and will no longer be considered a marketable profession within the scope of practice for which it is intended. Personally, I and many other highly trained, working professionals will be at risk for unemployment in the state of Hawaii, possibly being forced to seek employment outside of Hawaii, and contributing additional fiscal strain on the Hawaii state government by potentially adding a few hundred professionals as recipients to unemployment compensation. Many agencies, professionals, individuals and clients will suffer.

I feel it is important to point out that in the list of vocations to be deregulated by HB2029 HD1, marriage and family therapists are the only ones required to have a Master's degree. Licensing for barbers and cosmetologists, athlete agents, hearing aid dealers and fitters, and electrologists do not require even a bachelor's degree and are only comparable in the requirement of supervised training hours prior to licensure. Marriage and Family Therapists should not be included in this bill.

Marriage and Family Therapy is a science driven, research based profession comprised of mental health practitioners trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat

mental health and substance abuse problems. Training and licensing in this profession requires a Master of Arts degree in marriage and family therapy in addition to 1500 supervised hours of direct service prior to licensure. According to HRS §451J-7 Application for licensure,

Any person who files an application with the department after December 31, 1998, shall be issued a license by the department if the applicant provides satisfactory evidence to the department that the applicant is qualified for licensure pursuant to the requirements of this chapter and meets the following qualifications:

- (1) Has completed a master's degree or doctoral degree from an accredited educational institution in marriage and family therapy or in an allied field related to the practice of mental health counseling which includes or is supplemented by graduate level course work comprising a minimum of thirty-three semester, or forty-four quarter hours in the following course areas:*
 - (A) Marriage and family studies - nine semester or twelve quarter hours;*
 - (B) Marriage and family therapy studies - nine semester or twelve quarter hours;*
 - (C) Human development - nine semester or twelve quarter hours;*
 - (D) Ethical and professional studies - three semester or four quarter hours; and*
 - (E) Research - three semester or four quarter hours;*
- (2) Has one year practicum with three hundred hours supervised client contact;*
- (3) Completes one thousand hours of direct marriage and family therapy, and two hundred hours clinical supervision in not less than twenty-four months; and*
- (4) Has passed the National Marriage and Family Therapy Exam in accordance with section 451J-8.*

I strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. However, with de-regulation, there is the potential for Marriage and Family Therapists who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii and, in the worst case scenario, an individual could establish her/his own practice and claim that they provide Marriage and Family Therapy services; when, in fact, she/he may not have the professional qualifications which could clearly lead to consumer harm. Further, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession. Hawaii State will be at great risk for credibility and integrity regarding concern for the well being of its citizens, another step backwards at a time when forward momentum in healthcare is essential.

Thank you for your careful consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,
Zoe Avalon, B.S.

The honorable Committee Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Rick Kelley, a licensed Marriage and Family therapist, and I am forwarding this correspondence to your committee in opposition to HB 2029. This proposed legislation would deregulate the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy in the State of Hawaii. This action would not only have a significant negative impact on the families receiving MFT services, but could have negative financial implications to the state from potential malpractice litigation and the failure to collect licensure fees. Government oversight is important in that it provides the people of Hawaii with protection from unlicensed practitioners as well as access to insurance coverage. The families of Hawaii who are denied access to insurance coverage for Marriage and Family Therapy services would face a significant negative financial impact or be forced to do without these essential services all together. I respectfully urge you to remove the language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) from HB2029.

Sincerely:

Rick Kelley, MC, MFT, JD
License number MFT-152
(559) 787-3675

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 17, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

I am writing to state that I am strongly **OPPOSING HB2029 HD1 (RELATING TO PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS)**. I graduated with my Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy and am working toward licensure. I was excited to hear that it passed a few years ago and know of colleagues whom have expanded their practice and others who have utilized and benefited from their services.

Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services including, but not limited to:

- Individual psychotherapy
- Relationship counseling
- Family therapy
- Work-related consultation
- Substance abuse professional evaluations
- Child custody evaluation
- School counseling

MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy. With the economic situation and outlook of our island, it would be tragic to take away another needed service to the community. Having an outlet for an individual or families would only benefit everyone involved.

Please make a conscious effort to take care of the people in our community and NOT pass HB2029 HD1.

Sincerely,
Aurora Mau
auroramau@aol.com
808-520-7702

Marriage and Family Therapeutic Center of Hawaii
3454 Waialae Avenue, Room #6
Honolulu, HI, 96816
(808) 391-2289

Testimony by:
Earl Lau, M.A., M.F.T.
HB2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearings – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Earl Lau, M.A., M.F.T., I am a partner of the Marriage and Family Therapeutic Center of Hawaii. I provide psychotherapy for individuals, couples, and families here in Honolulu. I provide these services as a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) in the state of Hawaii.

I work with military couples, and families from almost every ethnic group of our diverse, multi-cultural society here in Hawaii. The education and training I received as a Marriage and Family Therapist well prepared me for this task, since MFTs are the only licensed practitioners specially trained in marriage and family therapy.

A large percentage of my clientele are considered seriously mentally ill (SMI) by the State's Adult Mental Health Department (AMHD). These people generally have a difficult time finding mental health providers who can provide the services they require, and without proper mental health care they tend to repeat their dysfunctional problems (i.e., drug abuse, domestic violence, etc...) placing a tremendous emotional and fiscal strain on our community. Almost all of these people would not be able to receive the services I provide if MFTs were no longer licensed in Hawaii, since they are dependent upon health insurance to acquire these services.

I strongly encourage you to remove the language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HFS Chapter 451 J) from HB2029. Marriage and Family Therapy is not a quasi-profession. MFTs are recognized and licensed in every state in the country because of their specialized training and the services they provide. How sad would it be if Hawaii is the only place in the United States where Marriage and Family Therapists were not licensed? I can be reached @ 391-2289 for additional information.

Sincerely,

Earl Lau, M.A., M.F.T.
Psychotherapist

**P.O. Box 2004
Honokaa, Hawaii 96727
(808) 640-3181**

TO: Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair; Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair, and
Members, House Committee on Finance

FROM: Fred C. Holschuh, M.D.

DATE: February 18, 2010

SUBJECT: HB 2029 HD1 Relating to Professions and Occupations

Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony, as an individual, requesting that the proposed language on Pg. 4, Lines 12 and 13 repealing licensure pursuant to Chapter 4515, be deleted. Marriage and Family Therapists play an important role in the overall spectrum of mental health services. Removing licensure requirements and credentials as proposed will not only remove the ability for these therapy services to be covered by third party payors, but potentially might allow patients to be cared for by unlicensed individuals. I respectfully request the licensing provisions be retained. Thank you.

Aloha,

Fred C. Holschuh

In regards to HB2029

February 18, 2010

Dear Representative Oshiro:

Marriage and Family Therapy is a regulated profession that allows for licensure and protects the integrity of its clients that are served. Marriage and Family Therapist often spend five years of their lives working toward and attaining licensure. This consists of two years of Masters level education, a practicum, three years of internship and hundreds of hours studying for the national Marriage and Family Therapy Exam. Marriage and Family Therapist work closely with psychologists, school psychologists, psychiatrists, medical doctors, and other health care professionals. Marriage and Family Therapist provide a distinct modality of treatment that does not compete, but rather compliments the health care profession.

Currently, Marriage and Family Therapist are required to be licensed in all 50 states. Having licensure in Hawaii allows many of your constituents the ability to seek family therapy. Eliminating the Hawaii licensure of Marriage and Family Therapist would be a giant step in the wrong direction. Many of your constituents are likely, only able to receive family therapy, because they have the ability to use their health care insurance. If Marriage and Family Therapist are no longer required to obtain a license, health care insurance companies would no longer pay for their services. Health care insurance companies only pay for services rendered by licensed health care professionals.

The recent financial crisis has contributed to family stress and dysfunction. The loss of the ability to be treated by Marriage and Family Therapy would be detrimental to both families and the community. I respectfully ask you to reconsider taking away mental health care services, especially in the current poor economic atmosphere where more and not less mental health care services are needed.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 205-9311 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Carl Kobayashi DDS

Testimony regarding HB2029 by Kirsten J. Tyson, Ph.D., MFT

Position: Opposed

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations Agenda Item #2

House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010/Room 308 – 11:00 am

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Kirsten J. Tyson, Ph.D., MFT. My experience as a marriage and family therapist, in both academia and community practice is extensive, covering over 25 years. Currently, I am the Adult Mental Health Services Coordinator for the Addictions Programs at the Salvation Army Family Treatment Services.

I oppose HB 2029 because it would repeal Hawaii Statute 451J, which defines and governs the practice of marriage and family therapy in the state of Hawaii. In particular, I oppose the inclusion of Hawaii Revised Statute 451 J in Section 4 and the redefinition of “marriage and family therapist” in Section 3, which would remove the requirement of licensure from the definition found in 431M-1, Hawaii revised statutes.

Passage of this bill would make Hawaii the only state in the union that does not regulate the practice of this *core mental health profession*. Designated as such by the federal government are, in addition to marriage and family therapy; social work, psychiatry, psychology and psychiatric nursing [45 FR 76000, Nov. 17, 1980, as amended at 54 FR 8738, Mar. 2, 1989; 57 FR 2477, Jan. 22, 1992].

Marriage and family therapists are trained to work with those experiencing the most severe problems faced by our society. As such, it is of primary importance that those who provide treatment be held to the high standards provided by state licensure. As a practitioner and trainer of master’s level therapists for over 25 years, I am aware that the public needs to be assured that the marriage and family therapists they choose are trained and governed by legal and ethical requirements of the state. In Hawaii, marriage and family therapists: provide mental health services to families and individuals – both adults and children – in urban and rural communities on most islands; are emotional and behavioral health specialists in the public schools; provide treatment in addictions programs; treat complex trauma resulting from abuse, neglect, and military experience; as well as work with children and families in early education settings. To repeal licensure would remove key resources from these programs and communities.

I thank-you for your attention to this serious matter.

Kirsten J. Tyson, Ph.D., MFT
HAMFT Board of Directors, Member-at-Large
kirsten.tyson@usw.salvationarmy.org
808-739-4919

Keith Whitaker MA, MFT
HC1 Box 5412 Keaau, HI 96749
808 982-6503 Fax 808 982-6298

Testimony by:
Keith Whitaker MA, MFT
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Keith Whitaker MA, M.F.T., I am in private practice and provide service-based psychotherapy and consulting for the Puna District. I provide psychotherapeutic, consulting, employee assistance, and substance abuse services to over 60 families, individuals, couples, work organizations, schools, state agencies, and health care systems within the state. I provide these services as a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT).

We are currently assisting with a variety of community-based services, including the reunification of families; following Child Welfare Service intervention; in conjunction with Ohana Conference, Parents, Inc., and other groups. MFTs are the only licensed practitioners specifically trained in marriage and family therapy.

We also provide advocacy and consultation services for disabled children within the public school system, in conjunction with Department of Education (DOE) personnel, Department of Health (DOH) representatives, other state and federal agencies, and impacted families. Again, MFTs are the only licensed professionals with specialized training in marriage and family therapy.

I also provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services within a private practice setting in the Puna district; helping individuals, couples, and families with concerns such as domestic violence, drug abuse, relationship distress, family problems, and teen pregnancy. And, again, MFTs are the only licensed practitioners with specialized training in marriage and family therapy.

I receive referrals from private physicians, health care systems, insurance companies, work organizations, Veteran's Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, and more. And, we receive these referrals based on licensure as MFTs.

Approximately 95% of our services are paid for by Hawaii insurance companies, including HMSA, AlohaCare, Medicaid, UHA, HMA, TriCare, OhanaCare, EverCare, HMAA; and also mainland-based insurance companies including UBH, Cigna, to name a few. If MFTs were no longer licensed in Hawaii, then virtually all of these affected families would be unable to receive quality health care from qualified specialists, since most could not afford to pay privately.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 982-6503 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Keith Whitaker'. To the right of the signature, the letters 'MA, MFT' are written in a similar handwritten style.

Keith Whitaker MA, MFT

02/17/2010

Hawaii State Finance Committee members

RE: BILL HB2029 Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing – Friday Feb 19th, 2010

Room 308 – 11:00am – Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Aloha,

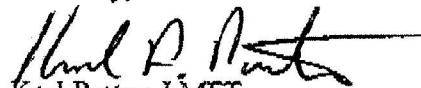
I have been a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the state of Hawaii since July of 2000. I am writing to Opposition to Bill HB2029. I was recently informed that Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists are at risk of losing licensure in the state of Hawaii if this bill were to pass. Currently Marriage and Family Therapists are certified or licensed to provide mental health services in all 50 states.

I have been a Clinical Supervisor with a Mental Health Agency on the Big Island of Hawaii for almost 10 years now and have had the opportunity to supervise both licensed and unlicensed Mental Health professionals from a variety of disciplines including Psychology, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and others. I have been a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist for twelve years. I have been a Clinical Member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) for twelve Years, and with my experience in supervising Mental Health Professionals, from a variety of disciplines, I have concluded LMFT's have a unique level of expertise in Mental Health issues not always found with other educational backgrounds. I especially find this true with those who have attained Clinical Membership with the AAMFT, which requires the highest level of training and accountability offered to Marriage and Family Therapists. I feel the expertise offered by LMFT's is a great benefit to our community especially from those who have attained Clinical Membership with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

I am writing to ask that you continue to support Licensure for Marriage and Family Therapists in the state of Hawaii by opposing bill HB2029, especially for those who have attained Clinical Membership with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. This would ensure our community will continue to have access to very professional and skilled clinicians in our community.

Thank you very much for your consideration. If you have any questions, Please feel free to contact me at 808-323-3305.

Sincerely,



Karl Prater, LMFT

Clinical Supervisor

The Institute For Family Enrichment

HAMFT # 70

AAMFT # 63163

ROBIN E. S. MIYAMOTO, PSY.D.
2226 LILIHA STREET, SUITE 306
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
TEL (808) 531-5711 FAX (808) 531-5722
robinmiyamoto@gmail.com

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Honorable Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Robin Miyamoto. I am a Clinical Psychologist working at Hawaii Medical Center, Director of Training for I Ola Lahui, a psychology training program that sends trainees to Hawaii's rural areas, and a Past-President of Hawaii Psychological Association. I would like to provide testimony in opposition HB 2029 that would repeal the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs.

This bill would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.
2. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
3. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin E. S. Miyamoto, Psy.D.
Clinical Psychologist

Testimony by: Anne Marie Provax, Hawaii Licensed MFT 150
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am a licensed MFT with 28 years of counseling experience, and one of only four counselors in West Hawaii with training in EMDR, a specialized and effective form of treatment for trauma survivors. Three out of the four trauma treatment specialists are licensed Marriage and Family therapists. We serve survivors of childhood abuse, sexual abuse, domestic violence, veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, accident victims, and many more. As covered providers for MedQuest, we are able to serve unemployed and low-income clients from a wide geographical area that includes many rural communities. Our services are cost-efficient for the state and private insurance companies, since the reimbursement for MFTs is considerably less than for psychologists and psychiatrists. There is a great need for effective trauma recovery services and we are working to fill that need. Our services help the traumatized individuals to recover, along with alleviating the negative impact on their spouses, children, ohana and community. Eliminating MFTs would dramatically reduce the number of available providers of all types of necessary counseling services and result in many people not getting the help that they need.

MFTs are licensed and regulated in every other state, and recognized as valuable providers of a wide variety of mental health services. Please allow us to continue to kokua our communities here by opposing HB 2029.

Mahalo,
Anne Marie Provax

Norman Gibson
1320 Alexander St., #1205
Honolulu, HI 96826
Email: normsroom@yahoo.com
Work Phone: (808) 768-8594

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing Scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure#: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2

February 18, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED
Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As an Employee Counselor employed by the City and County of Honolulu, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2020, and vote against its passage in your committee.

Repealing licensure of Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) would severely limit the availability of qualified mental health professionals to assist Hawaii's residents who are experiencing severe family problems.

By virtue of their training and experience, MFTs are in a unique position to help families who are suffering from severe family problems, including domestic violence, gambling and other financial problems, substance abuse, and infidelity, among others.

In my job as an employee counselor with the City, I conduct clinical assessments of individuals and couples and very often refer them to MFTs in the community for treatment. Many of these people would not seek additional help if they could not see a provider who has significant expertise in family issues. I would be very concerned about the future of these families if I didn't have providers to refer to, who are experienced in family issues, and who are licensed and covered by medical insurance.

My other concern with this bill is that many individuals who are already practicing as MFTs in our state would suddenly become unlicensed, and would have to close their practices. Others, who are employed by the Federal or State government, or by private agencies, would lose their jobs, since many of the positions require clinical licensure. There would thus be more than a hundred jobless mental health professionals in an already bleak economy.

In addition, many MFT students in our local colleges and universities would have to drop out of school, because they would have no future in this profession in the state of Hawaii.

The MFT profession is a thriving, vital profession. MFTs are licensed in all fifty states, and are vitally important to the continuing health of families in the state of Hawaii.

I respectfully request your support in voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak with me directly regarding my testimony, please call me at the phone number and email listed at the top of this letter. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Norman Gibson

Nicole Hokoana, MC, MFT

1980 Hana Highway
Haiku, HI 96708

Testimony by:

Nicole Hokoana, MC, MFT
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN hearing - Friday, February 19, 2010
Room 308 - 11:00 a.m.
Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro and members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Nicole Hokoana, MC, MFT, and I am a therapist at Child and Family Service on Maui. I completed my counseling degree in Marriage and Family Therapy several years ago, and am actively working to complete requirements that will allow me licensure. Attaining an MFT license has been a goal of mine since I decided to pursue higher education, and news of this bill passage has caused me great distraught. Licensure would open a world of opportunity for me: in addition to being able to start a private practice, I would be able to provide supervision, and attain a higher salary, thus raising the standard of living for my family. I could work in a variety of settings, doing complicated and varied work. It's the final step on this journey that I started well over twelve years ago.

Without licensure and regulation within the state of Hawaii, I would not be able to receive reimbursement by insurance companies, and people would cease to seek out the kinds of mental health services MFT therapists provide. My hopes of establishing a private practice would be destroyed, and the investments I made in my education would have been for naught.

My passion is to work with families. Currently, I work primarily with foster children and their biological families. Our primary goal for these families is reunification. Marriage and Family therapists are the only licensed professionals with training in Marriage and family therapy; we are the only professionals with training aimed at identifying, assessing and developing plans that address the often dysfunctional and complicated relationships within a family of origin. We provide invaluable services to individuals, couples and families here in Hawaii.

Forty-nine other states of this great union provide vendorship and licensure to Marriage and Family Therapists. Please do not reverse this recognition that my colleagues have fought to so hard for. I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy licensure (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB 2029. Thank you for accepting and listening to my testimony.

Sincerely,

Nicole E. Hokoana, MC, MFT

Members of the House Finance Committee:

As a practicing Marriage and Family Therapist in the state of Hawaii I am deeply opposed to bill HB2029 which is currently in the House of Representatives.

Marriage and Family therapists are highly-trained mental health professionals who bring a family-oriented focus to health care. They evaluate and treat mental and emotional disorders along with health and behavioral problems. They address a wide array of relationship issues within the context of the family system. MFTs believe that you can not divorce a problem from its context, and that the most important context is the family.

There is a great need for MFT professionals where I live on the Big Island and withdrawing licensure would be detrimental to the well being of those in this community who depend on services we provide. These services are included but not limited to: 1. individual psychotherapy; 2. relationship counseling; 3. family therapy; 4. work-related consultation; 5. substance abuse professional consultation; 6. child custody evaluation; 7. school counseling; and more. The community depends on these services in order to function as a whole as, to quote an old African proverb, "it takes a village to raise a child."

MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy. The focus on the ohana (family) is huge here in Hawaii and to neglect ohana who exists here as a cornerstone of the community is a disservice to all.

MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, counseling and psychiatric nursing.

Again, I respectfully request that you repeal bill HB2029 and that you allow the over 50,000 trained professional MFTs to continue to do their work in Hawaii as a fully licensed and regulated group of highly skilled individuals.

With respect,
Victoria Muse

What is a marriage and family therapist?

Marriage and family therapists (MFTs) are highly-trained mental health professionals who bring a family-systems perspective to health care. They evaluate and treat mental and emotional disorders and other health and behavior problems, and address a wide array of relationship issues within the context of the family system. MFTs believe that individuals and their problems must be seen in context, and that the most important context is the family.

How do MFTs work?

MFTs pioneered brief, solution-focused, family-centered treatment. They work to understand the problem exists now, and focus on solutions or actions which might help to resolve the problem. They may typically ask questions about family roles patterns, rules, goals, and stages of development. A family's patterns may influence an individual's health condition or problem, are usually affected by the disorder, and therefore need to be a part of the treatment plan. The unit of treatment is no longer the person - even if only a single person is interviewed - but the set of relationships in which the person is imbedded.

Who do MFTs treat?

- Families facing severe mental illnesses and emotional disorders, such as schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, and eating disorders (anorexia/bulimia)
- Substance abusers and their families
- Sexual abuse victims and perpetrators
- Children and families in the foster care system
- Juvenile offenders and others in the criminal justice system
- Couples in crisis
- Young children and their parents

Where do MFTs work?

Marriage and family therapists work in a variety of settings including:

- Inpatient facilities
- Employee Assistance Programs
- Health Maintenance Organizations
- Community Mental Health Centers

- Business and Consulting Companies
- Schools and Head Start Centers
- Social Service Agencies
- Universities and Research Centers
- Courts and Prisons
- Private Practice

Sometimes MFTs work in teams with other health care professionals, such as family physicians. And some are involved in family research and public policy analysis from a family perspective.

Marriage and family therapy is one of the fastest growing mental health disciplines.

Marriage and family therapy's prominence in the mental health field has increased due to its brief, solution focused treatment, its family-centered approach, and its demonstrated effectiveness. MFTs are licensed or certified in many states and are recognized by the federal government as members of a distinct mental health discipline.

Today, more than 50,000 MFTs treat individuals, couples and families nationwide. And Membership in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) has grown from 237 members in 1960 to more than 23,000 in 2000. This growth is a result, in part, of renewed public awareness of the value of family life and concern about the increased stresses on families in a rapidly changing world.

MFTs are needed

Everyday families throughout our society are affected by mental disorders and relationship difficulties - problems that are often too large, too complex, and too destructive to handle without professional help. These situations arise unexpectedly and can have devastating outcomes if not dealt with quickly and properly. The effects are far-reaching, leading to further problems that hurt not only the individual and family facing the disorder, but the entire community.

- Alcohol, drug abuse and mental health disorders are costly in terms of health, productivity and crime. In 1990, loss of productivity due to injury or illness cost the U.S. \$108 billion; health care costs, including the treatment of disorders and their medical consequences, cost about \$81 billion; and crime, criminal justice costs, and property damage cost about \$68 billion (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).
- Persons with untreated mental illnesses consume almost twice as much medical care as the average individual (American Psychological Association).

MFTs are in demand

The use of marriage and family therapists has increased dramatically in recent years. Consumers increasingly seek the services of MFTs:

- Sixty-two percent of managed mental health care providers and 52 percent of employee assistance programs (EAPs) employ MFTs as staff members or contracted providers (Business Insurance, 1993).
- In 1994, the AAMFT Research and Education Foundation received a \$300,000 grant from the Prudential Foundation to make grants to several marriage and family therapy training programs to develop on-site training for students at local Head Start centers.

- In 1992, 91 percent of graduates from COAMFTE-accredited programs found jobs shortly after gra

How does one become an MFT?

Two options are available for those interested in becoming a marriage and family therapist. You could cho complete an accredited* master's or doctoral program in marriage and family therapy.

Master's degree programs take 2 to 3 years, providing you with broad areas of theory and practice in ma family therapy. These programs will provide you with entry level education requirements for independent practice in the profession. They are designed to prepare you for beginning a career in marriage and family by providing basic didactic and clinical skills, as well as professional development and socialization.

Doctoral degree programs take 3 to 5 years - depending on whether or not you have a master's degree in and will prepare you for an academic career, research, advanced clinical practice and supervision. The doc curriculum provides you with advanced instruction in marriage and family therapy research, theory constr supervision.

The second way to become an MFT begins by earning a graduate degree in another mental health field - p psychology, clinical social work, psychiatric nursing, etc. After earning a degree you may decide to study depth at one of the accredited* **post-graduate degree clinical training programs** that provide clinical ed marriage and family therapy. A program may allow you to receive specialized training in a particular mod treatment population.

Whichever path you choose you will be trained in the diagnosis and treatment of mental and nervous disor in such areas as human growth and development, behavioral patterns, marital and family interaction, sexu dysfunction, parent-child relationships, and the dynamics of family systems. You will also learn to use a v therapeutic techniques and processes.

*In 1978, the Department of Education recognized the AAMFT Commission on Accreditation for Marriag Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) as the national accrediting body for graduate and post-graduate educational and training programs in the field of marriage and family therapy - the number of accredited p has grown from 24 in 1983 to 75 in 1996.

Advice for those interested in MFT programs

Get clinical experience - Because it is essential that MFTs have good interpersonal skills and emotional n graduate programs will be looking for evidence that you have been successful in working with people. Ma colleges and universities offer internship or externship programs or you can volunteer at local teen homes, shelters, crisis hotlines, or mental health centers. Choose a place where you will have direct contact with c

Get research experience - Because many universities require graduate professors to conduct original rese programs will look for applicants who have experience conducting psychological research and have an int helping professors with their research. Try to take at least one research course and one statistics course pri applying to admission into a graduate program in marriage and family therapy.

Identify and emphasize your strengths - If you are concerned that your grades will not gain you admissi the program, take time to think about what other aspects of your experience could make up for your grades sure to emphasize these aspects of your experience in your application and during your interviews.

Be a good consumer - Not only do you need to sell yourself to the programs, but you also need to determi programs will be a good fit for you. If you are honest with yourself and are clear about your desires, you w succeed in selecting a program that allows you to learn the art of marriage and family therapy in a comfort

supportive atmosphere.

Check with the accredited programs you are interested in to find out about its admission requirements. Most programs don't require a specific undergraduate degree, however, some programs may require applicants to have taken specific courses to be eligible for admission.

Licensure

Currently 48 states license or certify MFTs. The regulatory requirements in most states are substantially equivalent to the AAMFT Clinical Membership standards. After graduation from an accredited program, a period - usually 1-2 years - of post-degree supervised clinical experience is necessary before you are eligible for licensure or certification. When the supervision period is completed, you may have to take a state licensing exam conducted by The Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB). You should check with the licensure board in your state for its licensure or certification requirements.

Opportunities for continued professional development

AAMFT membership

The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) represents more than 23,000 qualified MFTs in the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Membership in the AAMFT provides individuals with the marriage and family therapy tools and resources that are needed to succeed as an MFT. The AAMFT offers professional recognition, educational programs, practice and professional development tools, managed care information, publications and advocacy - specifically tailored for the marriage and family therapist. As an AAMFT member, individuals have the opportunity to learn, network, and share with a community of 23,000 other mental health professionals dedicated to helping families. AAMFT Clinical Members have a minimum of a master's degree in marriage and family therapy and two years of post-graduate experience. The training of MFTs includes direct clinical supervision by experienced clinicians, which is unique among the mental health disciplines. MFTs are bound to a strict code of ethics, covering responsibilities to clients, the profession and the community.

For more information about a career in marriage and family therapy or to receive a list of accredited programs, please contact:

The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
112 South Alfred Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 838-9808

Extra Information:

MFT traineeships compete on an equal basis with the other mental health disciplines - psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing - for funding through the National Institute of Mental Health.

Testimony by:
Tyler C. Ralston, PsyD
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Dear Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I strongly oppose inclusion of Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) in HB 2029, or the passage of HB 2029.

MFTs are important and valuable to the health of our communities and State. Deregulating the field through removing licensure would be a step backward for Hawaii. I regularly refer clients, or potential clients, to MFTs because of the valuable service they provide.

Ensuring that regulation through licensure of MFTs continues is important for a variety of reasons. Regulation and licensure upholds a standard of training and competence, which is vitally important in a field pertaining to the health of human thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. While a certain portion of our Hawaii population can afford out-of-pocket or cash pay for 100% of the cost of professional services provided to them, the large majority cannot afford this cost. This large majority therefore relies on insurance to cover the bulk of their health costs, yet insurance only pays licensed MFTs. Doing away with regulation and licensure of MFTs in Hawaii, may save some administrative costs for the state up front, but cost the state many times more in the long run for each person who cannot get help because insurance will not pay their MFT provider. Continued regulation and licensure of MFTs is a small price to pay toward allowing a large portion of our population to obtain help, and save costs for our state in the long run.

Please remove MFTs from inclusion in HB 2029, or do not pass HB 2029.

Sincerely,



Tyler C. Ralston, PsyD
Ph: 808-358-2982

Marcus R Oshiro, Rm 306, Fx: 586-6201
E-mail repmoshiro@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony by:
Shari Au, Ph.D.
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Shari Au. I am a licensed psychologist, studying Marriage and Family Therapy for it's unique interventions with highly resilient families. Marriage and Family Therapy is needed in Hawaii and any State with a prevalence of under-achieving youth. I worked in West Oahu one year and witnessed effects of domestic violence, spouse and child abuse, sex abuse, neglect, abandonment, 1/3 of Waianae High School girls pregnant or having already had a child by graduation. Family dysfunction, welfare, homelessness, economic impoverishment is trans-generational as witnessed by hundreds camped on beaches and in shelters. Every incoming kindergarten class functions lower than the prior year's class.

Family therapy is desperately needed for these families. Working with individual children or with one parent is insufficient to change family dynamics, which ultimately rule the family members. The work of therapists in the schools has been to mediate learning disabilities, defiant behavior, and underachievement. The work that's needed is to restructure beliefs, family dynamics, values, and family rules. Based upon experience it appears that individual abusiveness is accepted, sustained within family structures considered functional. Since abusiveness is accepted, it is replicated trans-generationally by each sibling, in their families, among their children.

If Hawaii is ever to dig itself out of low SAT scores, low academic achievement, low national academic standing, family therapists are needed to work with restructuring entire families. It cannot be done one person at a time. It must be done families at a time. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy. I strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

I worked with the Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services as an ATS counselor. The average success of Addiction programs is 2-20% or an average of 12%. MFT addresses family of origin cause versus symptoms of substance abuse, with which Minuchin worked 30 years with high success. The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. Eliminating MFT licensure in Hawaii eliminates military jobs for many Island residents during this recession where the military represents a singular hiring source.

I request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 526-0388 for additional information if needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Shari Au, Ph.D.

Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 am, Conference Room 303

TO: Committee on Finance
Rep Marcus Oshiro
Rep Marilyn Lee

FROM: Carla M. Morioka
Chairperson
Board of Barbering and Cosmetology

RE: HB2029 Relating to Professional Occupation

The Board of Barbering and Cosmetology oppose **this bill**.

Deregulating Cosmetologist and Barbers would cause great hazard to the public health and safety. At present, all persons need the necessary hours to test and receive their license for the industry. It is very important to get the necessary training in Chemistry, Physiology and other important information that is received from the schools.

Using all the different products on each clientele requires professionals who are qualified in the field. By deregulating, you will have people who cannot read directions, know the proper procedures of using chemical products. You will also find that products that are not FDA approved will be appearing in salons. At present, there are salons that are operating improperly and causing some damage to clientele. They have been getting away with this because they have been paying their customers for the damage. Thus, no complaints have been filed with the Department. Deregulating would cause greater problems than this,

Also, currently there are over 11,000 licensed Cosmetologist and 1,300 licensed Barbers. All of these licensees are revenue for the State of Hawaii. We also have many more that are asking for reinstatement and paying the penalty for late fees, etc. At a time when the State is in need of finance, cutting this out would make things worse.

Please reconsider and keep **this Board** in operation.

Date: February 18, 2010

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations

Hearing: February 19, 2010, 11:00am

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Julie Falicki. I have been licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) in Hawaii since 1999 and in California since 1998. I am writing in **OPPOSITION to HB 2029**.

Marriage and Family Therapists have licensure in all 50 states. Many states, such as California, have had MFT licensure for decades. Licensure assures consumers of mental health services that the licensee meets core requirements for education, training, knowledge, and experience, and that the MFT provider is bound by the legal and ethical standards of the profession.

MFTs provide an affordable and accessible option for consumers of mental health services. Licensed MFTs are recognized and utilized by the federal government, such as the US Department of Transportation, the Veterans Administration, and the Department of Education. There is no benefit to the people of Hawaii to have their home be the only state in the nation that does not license Marriage and Family Therapists. Without licensure for MFTs, consumers would be unable to use their health insurance to pay for this important service. The ability of licensed MFTs to address and treat mental health, relationship, and substance abuse issues positively impacts many facets of individual and family functioning, which benefits the health and well being of our businesses and communities. If Hawaii were to have no licensure, this would unfortunately open the door for individuals to market themselves as Marriage and Family Therapists without the education, training, knowledge, experience, and standards to provide professional, ethical, and effective services.

Please continue to support the people of Hawaii in having the option to access the professional services of licensed Marriage and Family Therapists through voting against HB 2029. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Testimony by:

Debra L. Dumaran Fuller

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing - Friday, February 19, 2010

Room 308 - 11:00 am

Agenda Item #2

Position: OPPOSE

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Debra L.D. Fuller, and I am a school based behavioral specialist. I work in the public schools. I provide services as mandated by the Felix Decree to students who are identified for special services. The Felix Decree is a federal mandate and requires service providers with Master's degrees, the formal knowledge of Individual, Marriage and Family Therapy. I have been working toward my license since starting my services in the DOE. Although I had work experience that made me eligible for the DOE position, my degree and future license will make me very instrumental and valuable in working with our local population.

I am one of many specialists with an MFT degree in the DOE school system that currently provide a variety of mental health services. We also provide advocacy and consultation services for disabled children and their families. We work with many community service agencies, including state agencies such as the Department of Human Services - Child Welfare Services, the Department of Health, and the Judiciary.

MFTs are the only licensed practitioners specifically trained in marriage and family therapy. MFTs can receive referrals from private physicians, health care systems, insurance companies, work organizations, Veteran's Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, and more. And, we receive these referrals based on licensure as MFTs.

Approximately 95% of licensed MFT services are paid for by Hawaii insurance companies, including HMSA, AlohaCare, Medicaid, UHA, HMA, TriCare, OhanaCare, EverCare, HMAA; and also mainland-based insurance companies including UBH, Cigna, to name a few. If MFTs were no longer licensed in Hawaii, then these affected families would be unable to procure quality health care from qualified specialists, a service that may be beyond their ability to afford.

The service of Marriage and Family Therapy is a scientifically driven, research based profession comprised of mental health practitioners trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems. MFTs specialize in treating mental disorders within the context of relationships, the family system. MFTs can provide the individual, couple, or family with strategies to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved.

The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs

provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services including, but not limited to: 1. individual psychotherapy; 2. relationship counseling; 3. family therapy; 4. work-related consultation; 5. substance abuse professional evaluations; 6. child custody evaluation; 7. school counseling; and more. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy. I would like to respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 965-5542 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted by Debra L. Dumaran Fuller, MA MFT

FINTestimony

From: kwhitaker2@hawaiiantel.net
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 12:14 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Oppose 2029

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Keith Whitaker MA, MFT

HC1 Box 5412

Keaau, HI 96749

808 982-6503 Fax 808 982-6298

Testimony by:

Keith Whitaker MA, MFT

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010

Room 308 – 11:00 am

Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Keith Whitaker MA, M.F.T., and I am in a private practice-based psychotherapy and consulting service. I provide psychotherapeutic, consulting, employee assistance, and substance abuse services to hundreds of individuals, couples, families, work organizations, schools, state agencies, and health care systems within the state. I provide these services as a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT).

We are currently assisting with a variety of community-based services, including the reunification of families; following Child Welfare Service intervention; in conjunction with Ohana Conference, Parents, Inc., and other groups. MFTs are the only licensed practitioners specifically trained in marriage and family therapy.

I also provide advocacy and consultation services for disabled children within the public school system, in conjunction with Department of Education (DOE) personnel, Department of Health (DOH) representatives, other state and federal agencies, and impacted families. Again, MFTs are the only licensed professionals with specialized training in marriage and family therapy.

Further, I provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services within a private practice setting in the Puna district; helping individuals, couples, and families with concerns such as domestic violence, drug abuse, relationship distress, family problems, and teen pregnancy. And, again, MFTs are the only licensed practitioners with specialized training in marriage and family therapy.

I receive referrals from private physicians, health care systems, insurance companies, work organizations, Veteran's Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, and more. And, we receive these referrals based on licensure as MFTs.

Approximately 95% of our services are paid for by Hawaii insurance companies, including HMSA, AlohaCare, Medicaid, UHA, HMA, TriCare, OhanaCare, EverCare, HMAA; and also mainland-based insurance companies including UBH, Cigna, to name a few. If MFTs were no longer licensed in Hawaii, then virtually all of these affected families would be unable to receive quality health care from qualified specialists, since most could not afford to pay privately.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808)982-6503 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Keith Whitaker MA, MFT

FINTestimony

From: Leiana Cretton [leianamolokai@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 4:46 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Oppose HB 2029

Testimony by:
Leiana Cretton, MSCP
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing – Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 – 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

To Honorable Chair Oshiro and members of the House Committee:

My name is Leiana Cretton, MSCP and I am currently in pursuit of my license in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT). I was informed of the testimony that will be held on Friday, Feb. 19, 2010 that will affect myself along with many of my colleagues.

I am currently a school counselor at a public charter school in lower Puna where I serve many underserved families and children. I see the need for services out here in the underserved community, specifically family therapy where MFT's are the best qualified and fit for servicing these families. I also serve our community as a therapist and behavioral specialist through The Institute for Family Enrichment (TIFFE). Through this agency I am able to support our families, however again, I see the need for MFT's qualified and licensed to best serve these families.

Growing up on the island of Moloka'i, my dream was always to help our community through therapy. I since then, have moved away to Washington state to attend school and attained my BA, moved to O'ahu to attain my Master's in Science Counseling Psychology (MSCP), and then here on Hawaii island to serve our community, currently in pursuit of my license which will be complete in May 2010 and sitting for licensure this year. I have spent a lot of time and money to pursue my dream along with so many others.

I believe this is a need, a strong need in our community to have licensed Marriage and Family Therapist to support the foundation of our people and families in the health field in Hawaii.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 333-0314 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo for your time,

Leiana Cretton, MSCP
P.O. Box 1990
Pahoa, HI 96778
Phone: (808) 333-0314

Hotmail: Trusted email with Microsoft's powerful SPAM protection. [Sign up now.](#)

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 8:43 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lydeemft@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lydee Ritchie
Organization: Individual
Address: 905-B Maile St. Makawao, HI
Phone: 808-757-1111
E-mail: lydeemft@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

Testimony by:
Lydee Ritchie, M.F.T.
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing - Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 - 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Chair Oshiro, Rep. Yamashita (Maui) and Members of the House Finance Committee:
My name is Lydee Ritchie, MFT, licensed in Hawaii. Presently I am employed at Aloha House Inc., as a co-occurring disorder (COD) counselor, co-facilitating the COD Day Treatment and After Care program in Wailuku, Maui. I also work with individuals, couples, and families as a psychotherapist at the Maui Counseling clinic, located at 1878 Wili Pa Loop in Wailuku; am employed by Family Court Drug Court to go into the homes of families to treat dysfunction and addiction systemically (up to three generations); and provide psychoeducational and additional support at the Friends and Family group for Maui Drug Court. I am also the Maui County representative of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT).
I strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. However, with de-regulation, there is the potential for Marriage and Family Therapists who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii and, in the worst case scenario, an individual could establish her/his own practice and claim that they provide Marriage and Family Therapy services; when, in fact, she/he may not have the professional qualifications which could clearly lead to consumer harm. Further, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.
I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 249-2121 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.
Sincerely,
Lydee Ritchie, MFT

HAMFT Maui County Representative

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 7:48 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: plynn@maui.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patti Lynn
Organization: Individual
Address: 1390 Olinda Road Makawao
Phone: 808 572 9970
E-mail: plynn@maui.net
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:
Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Patti Lynn current M.F.T. student working to my degree with a final goal of licensure. MFTs work in a variety of agencies and settings within our state including, but not limited to: the Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; active duty military and their families; U.S. Department of Transportation; rural areas; families and communities; hospital and clinic systems; substance abuse treatment centers; and mental health practices. I am currently working in a practicum at Job Corp and work within the field of substance abuse and mental health.

Marriage and Family Therapy is a science driven, research based profession comprised of mental health practitioners trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems. MFTs specialize in treating mental disorders within the context of relationships. MFTs work with the individual, couple, or family to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved.

The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services including, but not limited to: 1. individual psychotherapy; 2. relationship counseling; 3. family therapy; 4. work-related consultation; 5. substance abuse professional evaluations; 6. child custody evaluation; 7. school counseling; and more. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy.

We strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT

services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. However, with de-regulation, there is the potential for Marriage and Family Therapists who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii and, in the worst case scenario, an individual could establish her/his own practice and claim that they provide Marriage and Family Therapy services; when, in fact, she/he may not have the professional qualifications which could clearly lead to consumer harm. Further, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a

"core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.

MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and

Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.

The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §167402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.

MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (3). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (4). Including Family Therapists in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.

MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

Finally, if you, or a family member, had a family crisis, potential relationship breakup, family substance abuse problem, or adolescent emergency; your physician would refer you for marriage and family therapy services. The MFT would work with you on the resolution of your relationship or family problems. However, if this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated. Major insurance carriers, such as HMSA and AlohaCare, along with Medicaid; and other 3rd party payers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 987-7070 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Patti Lynn

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 5:09 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dmitchell@cfs-hawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David W. Mitchell
Organization: Individual
Address: 200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Bldg. B Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: 808-543-8445
E-mail: dmitchell@cfs-hawaii.org
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

It has just come to my attention that HB 2029 is coming to a vote quickly which would basically remove licensure for Marriage and Family Therapists in Hawaii. Although I'm not a MFT, three of them work for me.

I am the Director of WorkLife Hawaii, the state's largest Employee Assistance Program. We serve over 70 businesses across Hawaii, and I rely on licensed counseling professionals to serve over 100,000 Hawaii residents.

The loss of my three licensed Marriage and Family Therapists alone would have a serious negative impact on the services we provide to Hawaii businesses and families. This is especially the case on Neighbor Islands where there are not always a wide variety of trained, licensed counselors available.

The need for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists is especially important now as families are feeling the brunt of the current economic situation and face a higher level of struggle than they did just a few years ago. To deprive these families of Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists would mean fewer families would be able to receive necessary services through their health care benefits, which would put a greater burden on the already overwhelmed State system.

That this bill lumps Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists -- who have graduate degrees and specialized training -- in with barbers, cosmetologists, athlete agents, hearing aid dealers and fitters, and electrologists, I believe is an insult to all Professional Counselors. I encourage you to take action against this portion of this bill. I encourage you to remove Marriage and Family Therapists from the list of professions that are being impacted by this bill. As written, I do not believe this bill truly serves this State or its population and additionally has the impact of harming families.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 6:30 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mmb246@clearwire.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mitchell Berman
Organization:
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mmb246@clearwire.net
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:
MITCHELL BERMAN, MA, MFT
10825 Kula Hwy
KULA, HAWAII 96790
808-878-3414

February 17, 2010

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chairman
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair
Members of the House Finance Committee

Re: HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing - Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 - 11:00 am, Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

I strongly oppose HB 2029, which would severely decrease already depleted mental health services in Hawaii, especially, on outer islands, would undermine our communities as many MFTs work with the drug using population and would further decrease jobs in a difficult economy.

Furthermore, the de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice.

MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.

The State of Hawaii sponsors family therapy treatment through the Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Department of Education, and the Judiciary. MFTs provide greater access to mental health services especially in the under-served families in rural communities.

Research studies demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems, including adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly, veterans issues -- as well as marital distress and conflict. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

Family therapy works, is efficient (short term) and one of the most economical modalities in mental health. The approach of Marriage and Family Therapy fits well with the family values and cultures of Hawaii.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029.

If I can be of further assistance, feel free to contact me at (808) 280-1670.
Sincerely, Mitchell Berman, MA, licensed MFT

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 9:24 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gbfaniam1@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kelly donovan
Organization: Individual
Address: 73-4322 keo keo kailua kona hi 96740
Phone: 808-938-4162
E-mail: gbfaniam1@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

(808) 9384162

75-5751 Kuikini Hwy

Testimony by:

Kelly Donovan., M.F.T
HB 2029, Professions and Occupations
House FIN Hearing - Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 - 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

To Members of the Committee :

My name is Kelly Donovan M.F.T., and I am a Kona Based psychotherapy and consulting service. I provide psychotherapeutic, consulting, employee assistance, and substance abuse services to hundreds of individuals, couples, families, work organizations, schools, state agencies, and health care systems within the state. I provide these services as a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT).

I am currently assisting with a variety of community-based services, including the reunification of families; following Child Welfare Service intervention; in conjunction with Ohana Conference, Parents, Inc., and other groups. MFTs are the only licensed practitioners specifically trained in marriage and family therapy.

I also provide advocacy and consultation services for disabled children within the public school system, in conjunction with Department of Education (DOE) personnel, Department of Health (DOH) representatives, other state and federal agencies, and impacted families. Again, MFTs are the only licensed professionals with specialized training in marriage and family therapy.

I receive referrals from private physicians, health care systems, insurance companies, work organizations, Veteran's Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, and more. And, we receive these referrals based on licensure as MFTs.

Approximately 95% of our services are paid for by Hawaii insurance companies, including HMSA, AlohaCare, Medicaid, UHA, HMA, TriCare, OhanaCare, EverCare, HMAA; and also mainland-based insurance companies including UBH, Cigna, to name a few. If MFTs were no longer licensed in Hawaii, then virtually all of these affected families would be unable to receive quality health care from qualified specialists, since most could not afford to pay privately.

We respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 961-9999 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Kelly Donovan MA MFT

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 4:11 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dennism08@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dennis Mendonca
Organization: Kauai Chapter of the Hawaii Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (A division of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy)
Address: PO Box 3956 Lihue, HI
Phone: 808-652-2505
E-mail: dennism08@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

Dear Chairman Oshiro and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2029.

This bill would eliminate the licensure status for Marriage and Family Therapists in the state of Hawaii. This would make Hawaii the only state in our nation that does not recognize the professional status of Marriage and Family Therapists. This would restrict access to services for the general public and would eliminate the option of having these services covered by medical insurance. With the high cost of living in Hawaii, many residents would not be able to pay privately for these services and would go without professional help. This would further erode available services as there are a limited amount of mental health professional service providers in our state. This is especially true on the neighbor islands. For some people their only option would be to seek help from a licensed Psychologist, a service that generally is offered at a significantly higher cost than Marriage and Family Therapy. This in turn would raise the cost of insurance premiums.

If this bill is allowed to pass in its current form it would: limit available services, force some people to engage in more costly services, and result in the loss of employment for a large number of licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. It would devastate this class of professional service providers and increase the financial burden on the state through higher insurance premiums. A measure designed to be a cost-cutting tool would end up costing the state more money and depriving many of needed services.

I urge you to remove the section of this bill that applies to Marriage and Family Therapists.

Thank you for your time.
Respectfully,
Dennis Mendonca, MA MFT

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 8:45 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: xoliswaa@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diana Keau
Organization: Hawaii Department of Education
Address:
Phone: (808) 280-9183
E-mail: xoliswaa@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:
Diana Keau
1173 Kamehameiki Road
Kula, HI 96790

Testimony for House Finance Committee
Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Measure #: HB2029
Opposed
Copies needed: 2
February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:
As a Marriage and Family Therapist, I am writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I am a behavioral health specialist, working with children with chronic school behavioral issues at the elementary school level in Kula, Maui.

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.

2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.

3. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.

4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.

5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Diana Keau

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 8:35 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: associate@stclem.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: The Rev. Michael P. Barham
Organization: Individual
Address: 1515 Wilder Avenue Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: (808) 927-9810
E-mail: associate@stclem.org
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

Throughout the period in which the House was considering (or rather FAILED to consider) civil unions, one of the arguments purported by the detractors of HD4444 was that it would weaken families. Of course that is a lie, but it was one of the arguments used. Now, you are considering something that actually would weaken families - particularly those most vulnerable.

When family bonds have weakened and are in desperate need of qualified and competent family therapists, why would you consider removing one of the basic structures by which those families in need of therapy can determine whether or not those from whom they (foundational units of our society - the family) are seeking assistance have met minimal standards for education and continued education and training.

Further, this undermines the profession and those who dedicate themselves to helping preserve and strengthen this fundamental unit of our society (the family) by providing a license that enables these professionals (and families who are often over burdened financially) to make use of insurance for the payment of services.

The proposed amendment will be detrimental to our families, and undermines the rational of all those representatives who pretending to support the strength of families in their mindless defeat of the civil unions bill earlier this fall.

Please do not support this amendment.

Sincerely,
The Rev. Michael P. Barham

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 8:58 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: alicialily808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alicia Yang
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu, HI
Phone:
E-mail: alicialily808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

As a friend and past client of a Marriage and Family Therapist, I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

I personally have benefited from family therapy, being the client of a family therapist who worked with me and my partner on important communication issues. Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

1. MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions.
2. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.
3. MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.
4. MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.
5. MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Alicia Yang

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 7:05 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tafuna@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: leona tafuna
Organization: Individual
Address: 56-119 pualalea street kahuku, hi 96731
Phone: 8087830403
E-mail: tafuna@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:
Testimony for House Finance Committee

Hearing scheduled: Friday, February 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.

Measure #: HB2029

Opposed

February 16, 2010

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee

and Members of the House Finance Committee

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

As a Marriage and Family Therapist (Therapy Intern, Student, Friend, etc), I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and vote against its passage within your committee.

(State your personal experience, what you do, or what MFTs have done for you)

Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas, causing hardship for clients and for the MFT industry. MFTs are important to Hawaii and its residents because:

MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities.

MFTs are widely recognized as providers of mental health services throughout the country and are designated as a "core mental health profession" by the federal government. They are effective practitioners who treat the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems.

MFTs provide quality mental health services. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent.

MFTs are extensively recognized as viable mental health providers within our federal and state governments.

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

If you would like to speak to me directly regarding my testimony, please contact me at the phone number and email printed above. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

LEona Tafuna

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 7:17 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: plynn_myfs@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patricia Lynn
Organization: Individual
Address: 1390 Olinda Road Makawao
Phone: 808 572 9970
E-mail: plynn_myfs@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:
Testimony by:

Patricia Lynn M.F.T Student

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing - Fri. Feb. 19, 2010
Room 308 - 11:00 am
Agenda Item #2
Position: Oppose

Dear Sir/Madam:

Hello, my name is Patricia Lynn MFT Student with Argosy University on Maui.

I am very much in opposition of HB 2029. Below are the following reasons:

*The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services.

*Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

*The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services including, but not limited to: 1. individual psychotherapy; 2. relationship counseling; 3. family therapy; 4. work-related consultation; 5. substance abuse professional evaluations; 6. child custody evaluation; 7. school counseling; and more. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy.

*Marriage and Family Therapy is a science driven, research based profession comprised of mental health practitioners trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems. MFTs specialize in treating mental disorders within the context of relationships. MFTs work with the individual, couple, or family to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved.

*MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists

*MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.

*The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §1677402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing Veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.

*MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (3). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (4). Including Family Therapists in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.

*MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

*Finally, your physician would refer you for marriage and family therapy services if you, or a family member, had a family crisis, potential relationship breakup, family substance abuse problem, or adolescent emergency. The MFT would work with you on the resolution of your relationship or family problems. However, if this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated. Major insurance carriers, such as HMSA and AlohaCare, along with Medicaid; and other 3rd party payers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I can be reached at (808) 572-9970 if additional information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lynn
MFT Student at Argosy University

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 7:21 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: alyssaaiko67@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alyssa Arakaki
Organization: Individual
Address: 1660 Kalakaua Ave. #104 Honolulu, HI 96826
Phone: 808-271-6502
E-mail: alyssaaiko67@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

I am currently working on my MFT licensure and it has been a long process. I will be able to sit for the January 2011 exam. I have a passion to work with families affected by autism and would like to be able to one day get licensed and have other options for myself as an individual. Whether it be in private practice or to hold a federal position and work with families affected by war. Please do not approve and pass this bill to oppose the ability for me to get licensed.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Arakaki

FINTestimony

From: Casey Alinan on behalf of webmaster
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 9:46 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FW: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Forwarding email to FINtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Dorothy Bach [<mailto:dbach@chaminade.edu>]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 9:41 AM
To: Mailing List
Subject: RE: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

I intend to be present to testify also and oppose HB2029 in person.

Dorothy Bach MSCP, LMHC
Internship Director CC/M&F
Chaminade University
phone 739-8557
dbach@chaminade.edu

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-----Original Message-----

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [<mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 6:08 PM
To: FINtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc: dbach@chaminade.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dorothy Bach
Organization: Chaminade University of Honolulu
Address: 3140 Waialae Ave. Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-739-8557
E-mail: dbach@chaminade.edu
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

House Bill 2029's intent to deregulate a licensed profession i.e. Marriage and Family Therapists may not be in the best interest of the people of Hawaii and I urge you to reconsider and repeal HB 2029.
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists provide available and excellent service to the families of Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Bach MSCP, MHC, NCC

_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 4839
(20100205) _____

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>

_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 4839
(20100205) _____

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 9:10 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: melsatsuma@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melinda Satsuma
Organization: Individual
Address: 1237 Nanakai Street Pearl City, HI
Phone: 808 358-3775
E-mail: melsatsuma@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

As a 2004 graduate of the MFT program at Chaminade University, I have spent years of my life in education, paid and unpaid supervision of thousands of clinical hours providing clinical therapy to children and their families, who have, for the most part been raped or sexually abused. De-regulating the MFT license in this state would be a grave disservice to the many clients we serve. They will not have any criteria to distinguish between a qualified therapist with many years of education and thousands of hours of training--and say, an individual marketing themselves as a "coach"; "counselor"; or even "therapist." Please do not take this step back in time. I became an MFT because it is rigorous and highly respected nation-wide. As an MFT, I use evidence-based practice such as Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to work with my young clients. These kids and their families are TOO fragile to entrust to people without credentials. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter that will have a great impact on our children in Hawaii.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 8:12 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lacey_fowler@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lacey Fowler
Organization: Individual
Address: 94-299 Aaahi St Mililani, HI
Phone: 808-223-2107
E-mail: lacey_fowler@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

My name is Lacey Fowler, MA in Marriage and Family Therapy, currently in the process of earning my license in Marriage and Family Therapy here in Hawaii. I currently work for the Department of Education as a Behavioral Health Specialist and look forward to continuing my service to people in Hawaii after gaining licensure here. It is very important that licensure remain a possibility in Hawaii.

MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.

MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

MFTs are wanted and used by the public.

MFTs are the only licensed practitioners specifically trained in marriage and family therapy, an area that is growing in its need as our society faces so many challenges to the family system today.

MFTs are seen as valuable assets throughout our country- the Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. § 7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.

I respectfully request that language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029.

Sincerely,

Lacey Fowler, MA in Marriage and Family Therapy Behavioral Health Specialist State of HI -
Dept of Education - Central District - Student Based Behavioral Health

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 10:19 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jteleia@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeanne Teleia, MFT
Organization: Individual
Address: 47-669 Melekula Rd, #10 Kaneohe, HI
Phone: 224-5008
E-mail: jteleia@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

I write today to ask that you oppose any language in HB 2029 that repeals the regulatory program of Marriage and Family Therapists. We have been licensed and regulated in this state to diagnose and treat all mental health disorders for a very long time and are an integral part of the mental health system in this state. Especially at this time of great stress in this state due to the economy and the military and war related stress, unregulating a major mental health provider would deny access to thousands of needy children and adults. Our public mental health system is already overwhelmed and understaffed and this bill would only intensify it. As a Marriage and Family Therapist I am always told by clients that they cannot find any therapists with openings as it is so this bill would worsen a problem that already exists. In addition, it would put many of us out of a job and onto the unemployment roles which are already maxed out. Please do not make a terrible economic situation worse. Thank you.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 10:06 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: zansparadise@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paki Myers, MD
Organization: Individual
Address: PO Box 6968 Ocean View, HI 96737
Phone: 808-939-9602
E-mail: zansparadise@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

I'm a Big Island physician and was shocked to learn there's a measure up for your vote this Friday which may take the privilege of licensure away from marriage and family therapists.

I have personally worked with hundreds of LMFTs over more than thirty years. I have a close professional relationship with several here in the Kailua-Kona area who provide essential and exemplary care for thousands of people who require counseling. As you're aware, the neighbor islands, at least, have a critical shortage of mental health professionals. Without the LMFTs, the total burden of covered care will be on the shoulders of a few psychiatrists (and possible Ph.D. psychologists) who could not possibly handle the caseload.

The marriage and family therapists I know and use for my patients take clients without respect to insurance coverage. Because of this, they're already undercompensated for their level of expertise. If you take away their licensure, they will be completely unreimbursed except for those wealthy enough to pay out of pocket (of which there are very few people that I know of). This will force the vast majority to close their practices and possibly abandon our state.

These are highly-trained professionals that our populace has relied on and have been every bit as integral to our health care system as my fellow MDs, our nurses and other licensed personnel. To arbitrarily eliminate the licenses of this group would be devastating for all of us citizens of this state.

I urge you to consider voting against this ill-conceived bill or at the very least tabling it so you could have more time to assess its impact. Please do not deregulate this vital population.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 10:09 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lantczak@tiffe.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Leslie Colter-Antczak
Organization: The Institute for Family Enrichment
Address: 77 Mohouli St. Hilo, Hawaii
Phone: 808) 961-5166 ext. 108
E-mail: lantczak@tiffe.org
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

To: Director of Finance Committee
& Others Whom it May Concern

From: Leslie Colter-Antczak, MA, MFT #71 Big Island Clinical Director of The Institute For Family Enrichment (TIFFE)
77 Mohouli St., Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Re: HB2029

Aloha,

In my capacity as Clinical Director for a family centered community mental health agency I am not at direct risk of losing anything through the legislative changes currently being proposed. Two thirds of my staff will be utterly demoralized because they are either licensed MFTs or are in the process of licensure. However, those who stand to lose the most are the children and families of Hawaii who benefit from the services provided by licensed MFT professionals both privately, and through agencies like TIFFE.

I hire my Mental Health Professionals from a small pool of qualified and willing individuals who are both academically and psychically prepared to work on the front lines with youth and families all over the island, including areas like Puna and Ka'u.

We are experiencing a crisis of enormous proportions since Adult Mental Health funding was cut last year, and are seeing more and more families suffering because the parents are seriously mentally ill and are not able to receive care.

Marriage and Family Therapists are among the few in this profession who are willing to do the kind of work it takes to treat Hawaii's clientele in rural and underserved areas. Yes, these services are well utilized, so it costs in the short run.

The long term, the costs of denying the mental health needs of Hawaii's population will be staggering.

Respectfully,

Leslie Colter-Antczak, MA, MFT #71

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 10:09 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lourdespaller@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lourdes Paller
Organization: Individual
Address: 1439 Railroad Ave Hilo, Hawaii
Phone: (808) 769-2147
E-mail: lourdespaller@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

Testimony by Lourdes Paller, M.A.,PH.D Candidate

As a recent 2009 Masters graduate of Marriage and Family Therapy, seeking licensure in this field, I oppose de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapy. Marriage and Family Therapy service is widely accepted here in Hawaii as a source of mental health providers, and as such, are much needed services in Hawaii. Professional educators in this field, here in Hawaii, and throughout the states have provide a great deal of time and effort to assure the best quality education to certify and license those who pursue Marriage and Family Therapy. Their professional dedication and efforts will be in vain if de-regulation occurs. The people in our rural communities deserve the utmost quality of services for their families. For this reason, I chose to pursue the field of Marriage and Family Therapy, gaining and appreciating high quality of education from dedicated Professors and Instructors in this field for the purpose of assisting families in need. Please, I oppose de-regulation as it will bring harm to consumers who deserve qualified professional assistance to them overcome their family issues. Thank you very much for your consideration to stop de-regulation.

Sincerely,

Lourdes Paller, M.A., PH.D Candidate

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 12:35 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: okika@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gay Leah Barfield, Ph.D., Lic. MFT
Organization: Individual
Address: PO 737 Mt. View, Hawaii
Phone: ***-***-****
E-mail: okika@aloha.net
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

Testimony by:

Gay Leah Barfield, Ph.D, Licensed MFT

HB 2029, Professions and Occupations

House FIN Hearing - Fri. Feb. 19, 2010

Room 308 - 11:00 am

Agenda Item #2

Position: Oppose

Honorable Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

As indicated above, my name is Dr. Gay Leah Barfield. I am a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice in Hilo. I have been a therapist and educator for nearly 40 years, both in California, and here in Hawaii since 1995. I have a small private practice and am currently semi-retired while still training, educating and supervising future therapists. For the past 5 years, I have also taught at UH Hilo in their 2-year graduate Masters program in mental health counseling, have published widely, and have trained therapists world-wide for 40 years.

I was among the initial group of those taking and passing the first MFT licensing exam offered here in Hawaii. Thus, here in Hawaii I have submitted testimony in support of the initial licensing of MFTs, and then for many years thereafter testified in support of their inclusion under insurance policy coverage. I did so both to bring MFTs into parity with other designated mental health professionals so licensed and so covered in now all 50 states, and to better serve the public's access to professional care. Appropriately, I believe, both of those bills were passed, to the benefits of the public and the professional mental health field overall.

I am now puzzled and surprised to see that these actions and access to mental health care could rapidly be undone by the passage of HB2029. I am concerned that, should this bill pass as stated, with MFTs included within, the negative ripple effects on the well-being of individual clients and their families, and on overall public health would be huge, as well as on the MFTs who serve them.

The skills, expertise and training of MFTs are both broad, deep and uniquely specific. At a time of multiple crises in our culture when even more stresses are being created in individual and family lives throughout our nation and state, and certainly on each Hawaii Island, the need for access to therapists specifically trained in family dynamics, as are no other mental health professionals, is even more pertinent.

To avoid repetition, I am including below (in italics and in green ink) the thorough testimony from our HAMFT President, Dr. Kai Swigart, with which I completely concur for each of the very sound reasons he states. I invite and encourage you to concur as well with these well-taken points, after your serious consideration of the implications of repealing MFTs from coverage and licensure under HRS Chapter 451J.

I thus respectfully request that the language to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) be removed from HB2029. I may be reached at (***) ***-**** should additional information be desired.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Gay Leah Barfield, Ph.D., Hawaii Lic. MFT #51

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Paul D. Kai Swigart, Ph.D., M.F.T., and I am President of the Hawaii Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HAMFT), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). HAMFT represents 315 licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) in the State of Hawaii. MFTs work in a variety of agencies and settings within our state including, but not limited to: the Department of Education in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Department of Health; active duty military and their families; U.S. Department of Transportation; rural areas; families and communities; hospital and clinic systems; substance abuse treatment centers; and mental health practices.

Marriage and Family Therapy is a science driven, research based profession comprised of mental health practitioners trained and licensed to independently diagnose and treat mental health and substance abuse problems. MFTs specialize in treating mental disorders within the context of relationships. MFTs work with the individual, couple, or family to change behavioral patterns so that problems can be resolved.

The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. MFTs provide the full range of mental health and substance abuse services including, but not limited to: 1. individual psychotherapy; 2. relationship counseling; 3. family therapy; 4. work-related consultation; 5. substance abuse professional evaluations; 6. child custody evaluation; 7. school counseling; and more. MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy.

We strongly oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J). The de-regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists is not in the best interest of the consumer. Regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy protects consumers from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide MFT services. MFT practitioners in Hawaii have been providing quality care while adhering to ethical standards of practice. However, with de-regulation, there is the potential for Marriage and Family Therapists who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii

and, in the worst case scenario, an individual could establish her/his own practice and claim that they provide Marriage and Family Therapy services; when, in fact, she/he may not have the professional qualifications which could clearly lead to consumer harm. Further, Hawaii would be the only state in the nation that would not have some form of government oversight of the marriage and family therapy profession.

MFTs have wide acceptance as providers of mental health services throughout the country. MFTs are licensed or certified to provide mental health services in 50 states. The Federal government has designated marriage and family therapy as a "core mental health profession" along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.

MFTs are effective. Research studies repeatedly demonstrate the effectiveness of marriage and family therapy in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders and health problems. Adolescent drug abuse, depression, alcoholism, obesity and dementia in the elderly -- as well as marital distress and conflict -- are just some of the conditions Marriage and Family Therapists effectively treat. Studies also show that clients are highly satisfied with services of Marriage and

Family Therapists. Clients report marked improvement in work productivity, coworker relationships, family relationships, partner relationships, emotional health, overall health, social life, and community involvement.

MFTs are wanted and used by the public. In a recent study, 96% of consumers report that marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals they would recommend to friends. Over 98 percent of clients of marriage and family therapists report therapy services as good or excellent. (1) MFTs are widely accepted in the area of Substance Abuse Treatment. The US Department of Transportation now uses Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) to evaluate any of the approximately 12.1 million people performing safety sensitive transportation jobs who are covered by DOT drug and alcohol regulations. In addition, studies by the Lewin Group (2) have shown that MFTs receive as much or more regular training in Substance Abuse Treatment as other mental health professions.

The Federal Government extensively recognizes MFTs in education, veterans treatment, Tricare, and other areas. The Veterans Administration (VA) also uses MFTs as mental health providers under the Veterans Benefits Act (38 U.S.C.A. §7402). This law authorizes the hiring of MFTs within the VA, and specifically mentions MFT qualifications in addressing veterans' post-traumatic stress disorder needs. The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. Champus/Tricare, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, uses MFTs as mental health service providers also.

MFTs are more likely to practice in rural areas than are other mental health professions. Family Therapists are more likely to be in rural areas than psychiatrists and also to be in areas that do not have a psychiatrist (3). In the most rural counties in the U.S., which make up 15.5% of all counties in the U.S., there are twice as many MFTs as psychiatrists in those counties (4). Including Family Therapists in health plans has lead to a greater number of covered providers in rural counties in many other states. There is no reason to expect that Hawaii will be any different.

MFTs specifically work in concert with other professions as well as with families and communities. MFTs specifically look for ways to collaborate within the entire system of care. In a recent study, nearly half of the clients of MFTs were also taking some form of psychotropic medication, demonstrating MFTs traditional collaborative and working relationship with other professions (5).

Finally, if you, or a family member, had a family crisis, potential relationship breakup, family substance abuse problem, or adolescent emergency; your physician would refer you for

marriage and family therapy services. The MFT would work with you on the resolution of your relationship or family problems. However, if this bill were implemented, marriage and family therapy services would no longer be covered benefits due to the fact that marriage and family therapy would no longer be regulated. Major insurance carriers, such as HMSA and AlohaCare, along with Medicaid; and other 3rd party payers only recognize services performed by licensed and/or registered professionals. .

FINTestimony

From: Teni Garrett-Johnson [tgarrettjohnson@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 1:29 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Oppose the Repealing of HRS Chapter 451J

Dear Representatives,

As a parent who has needed the services of Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) on the island of Hawaii Loa, I urge you to support Marriage and Family Therapists and their ability to be paid by insurance companies in our State. These qualified Mental Health providers are often of Hawaiian descent and have been raised and educated in Hawaii. This enables them to build high trust factors with families and youth in our community.

With all of the educational cuts, social problems and despair that we face, we need providers who can assist us in meeting these challenges

Please remove the language that repeals HRS Chapter 451J from HB2029.

Mahalo,
Teni Garrett-Johnson

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 3:49 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: phwa09@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dr. Cindi Dang
Organization: Hawaii Psychological Association
Address: Honolulu, Hawaii
Phone:
E-mail: phwa09@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

Chairman Marcus Oshiro, Vice-Chair Marilyn Lee and Members of the House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2029, Relating to Professions and Occupations/OPPOSED

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee:

I writing to express my opposition to HB2029 and am asking for your vote against its passage within your committee. This is such vital group of providers in the community. Their extensive training and profound commitment to working with under represented groups is critical in reversing negative trends and providing hope. Repealing the regulatory program managing licensure of MFTs would decrease the availability of qualified mental health services within our state, especially to those who reside in rural areas and are so in need of these services. I ask for your support in ensuring the continued presence in the community of Marriage and Family Therapists by voting against HB2029. Have a great 2010 session.

Sincerely,
Dr. Cindi Dang

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 8:33 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: iamKuulei@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: PHOEBE BRUSCO
Organization: Individual
Address: 75-5112 Haleolono St Kailua Kona HI
Phone: 808-355-8757
E-mail: iamKuulei@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:
We must keep these professionals in our community.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 7:11 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: covici@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patricia Covici
Organization: Hamft
Address: 2712 puuhoolai street kihei Hawaii
Phone: 808 891 0891
E-mail: covici@sbcglobal.net
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

I have been a licensed MFT in california and recently hawaii. I have provided assistance to individuals and families for 21 years and helped save countless lives during that time. I have kept suicidal teenagers from taking their lives and, kept marriages and families together. I have worked with children whose parents are divorcing and addicts in recovery. Passing this bill would eliminate my ability to do my job. Please do not pass this bill.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 9:44 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: stsubaki@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Shannon Tsubaki
Organization: Individual
Address: 1241 A 10th Avenue
Phone: 808-224-6886
E-mail: stsubaki@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

Please do not send Hawaii backwards after years of progress. Marriage and Family Therapists are valued professionals around the country for being well trained and effective therapists. In Hawaii we only recently caught up, please oppose and vote for progress! Thank you!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 1:09 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jenwelcome@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Welcome, MFT
Organization: Individual
Address: 1089- B West Kuiaha Rd. Haiku, Hawaii 96708
Phone: 808-344-8218
E-mail: jenwelcome@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

My name is Jen Welcome, MFT #224, licensed in Hawaii. I am employed as an independent contractor to work as an in-home intensive family therapist with the Department of Health as well as Family Court Drug Court. I respectfully request for you to repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451) and for it to be removed from HB 2029. This is critical in an effort to make mental health services available to the most vulnerable citizens in our state. Family therapy has great value and is proven effective with specific issues that impact all of our citizens, from keiki to kapuna. Thank you for your consideration.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 12:59 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: m384750@ameritech.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Donovan
Organization: Individual
Address: 73-4322 KeoKeo Street Kailua-Kona, HI
Phone:
E-mail: m384750@ameritech.net
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

"I am a resident of Kona, who greatly opposes HB 2029. As an outer island resident, I can attest to the fact that Health Care Access ability can be very difficult. I realize that Marriage and Family therapists provide a vital role here in our community, especially in the wake of the countries economic crisis. Please do not allow this vital resource to be removed, and please do not take away the license for the Marriage and Family Therapists in the State of Hawaii Sincerely, Michael Donovan

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 12:57 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Lodono1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lois Donovan
Organization: Individual
Address: 73-4322 KeoKeo Street Kailua-Kona, HI
Phone:
E-mail: Lodono1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

" I am a resident of Kona, who greatly opposes HB 2029. As an outer island resident, I can attest to the fact that Health Care Access ability can be very difficult. I realize that Marriage and Family therapists provide a vital role here in our community, especially in the wake of the countries economic crisis. Please do not allow this vital resource to be removed, and please do not take away the license for the Marriage and Family Therapists in the State of Hawaii Sincerely, Lois Donovan

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 12:22 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ksweet30@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: katherine sweetser
Organization: Individual
Address: 75-403 Hoene St. Kailua Kona, HI
Phone: 808-331-0816
E-mail: ksweet30@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

This bill will undo the license for my profession and will make it impossible for Marriage and Family Therapists to bill insurance companies. We are a valuable mental health asset to the state.

FINTestimony

From: Merna Makida-Kawa'a [1973pumehana@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 10:59 AM
To: Mailing List
Cc: FINTestimony
Subject: Re: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

I am a resident of Kona, who greatly opposes HB 2029. As an outer island resident, I can attest to the fact that Health Care Access ability can be very difficult. I realize that Marriage and Family therapists provide a vital role here in our community, especially in the wake of the countries economic crisis. Please do not allow this vital resource to be removed, and please do not take away the license for the Marriage and Family Therapists in the State of Hawaii Sincerely,"Merna Kawaa

On 2/17/10, mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov <mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov> wrote:

> Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

>

> Conference room: 308

> Testifier position: oppose

> Testifier will be present: No

> Submitted by: Merna Kawaa

> Organization: Individual

> Address: p o box 1246 Kealakekua Hi

> Phone: 8087691951

> E-mail: 1973pumehana@gmail.com

> Submitted on: 2/17/2010

> Comments:

> "I am a resident of Kona, who greatly opposes HB 2029. As an
> outer island resident, I can attest to the fact that Health Care
> Access ability can be very difficult. I realize that Marriage and
> Family therapists provide a vital role here in our community,
> especially in the wake of the countries economic crisis. Please do
> not allow this vital resource to be removed, and please do not take
> away the license for the Marriage and Family Therapists in the State
> of Hawaii Sincerely,"Merna Kawaa

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Merna Makida-Kawa'a

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 10:57 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: 1973pumehana@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Merna Kawaa
Organization: Individual
Address: p o box 1246 Kealakekua Hi
Phone: 8087691951
E-mail: 1973pumehana@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

" I am a resident of Kona, who greatly opposes HB 2029. As an outer island resident, I can attest to the fact that Health Care Access ability can be very difficult. I realize that Marriage and Family therapists provide a vital role here in our community, especially in the wake of the countries economic crisis. Please do not allow this vital resource to be removed, and please do not take away the license for the Marriage and Family Therapists in the State of Hawaii Sincerely,"Merna Kawaa

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 4:25 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rosanknudson@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rosana Knudson
Organization: Individual
Address: 77-373 Sunset Kailua-Kona
Phone: 808 640 7377
E-mail: rosanknudson@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

MFT licensure in the state of Hawaii is a great need to our people. MFT's are widely accepted and used by the public. We are very effective in treating the full range of mental and emotional disorders, health problems, and substance abuse problems. Please keep our MFT license in Hawaii, we demonstrate a collaborative and working relationship with other professions and we help many individuals and families in need for mental health assistance. I love my profession, please keep it open to help Hawaii grow and mature to a better and healthier community.

Sincerely, Rosana Knudson

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 4:56 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: waianae-girl@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tracey Dawson
Organization: Individual
Address: 75-211 Ala Onaona St. Kailua-Kona, HI
Phone: 808 327-2149
E-mail: waianae-girl@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

"I am a resident of Kona, who greatly opposes HB 2029. As an outer island resident, I can attest to the fact that Health Care Access ability can be very difficult. I realize that Marriage and Family therapists provide a vital role here in our community, especially in the wake of the countries economic crisis. Please do not allow this vital resource to be removed, and please do not take away the license for the Marriage and Family Therapists in the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Tracey Dawson

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 4:07 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Dianemccary@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diane McCary
Organization: Individual
Address: Kailua Kona, HI
Phone:
E-mail: Dianemccary@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

I am a resident of Kailua Kona and a retired middle school counselor in the public school system. I am opposed to HB 2029 which would take away the licenses of the Marriage and Family Therapists in our community. They play an important role in helping our local families, especially on our island where the problems are many and the qualified therapists few.

Sincerely, Diane McCary

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 3:10 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: linda@ywcakauai.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Pizzitola
Organization: Individual
Address: 195 Eggerking Rd. Kapaa HI
Phone: 808 822-0055
E-mail: linda@ywcakauai.org
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

Eliminating the state licensing for Marriage & Family Therapists is a bad idea. On the outer islands there is considerable difficulty filling upper level positions in counseling and social services as it is. We need more, not fewer, licensed therapists. In addition, this bill works against MFT's and grants special privilege to social workers, who have similar educational qualifications and do comparable work (but happen to have a strong PAC in Hawaii). Please remove MFT's from this bill!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 2:25 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: drlucy@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lucy Miller
Organization: Individual
Address: 2506 Kanio St.. lihue, HI
Phone: 808-246-0550
E-mail: drLucy@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

I am a Marriage and Family Therapist who practices on Kauai. I fought for a decade to get my profession licensed in the state of Hawaii in order to protect the consumers in our community from possible exploitation by unqualified persons. As all 50 states use similar licensing procedures, this would put us in the unenviable position of being the only "rogue" state. We are the only professionals specifically trained in marriage and family issues.

Please, for the sake of the people of our beautiful state, do not let this happen, and oppose HB 2029.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 8:20 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: merwritte@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Selene Mersereau
Organization: Individual
Address: 119 Kakahiaka St.
Phone: 263-0207
E-mail: merwritte@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

Please Oppose HB 2029. Families and couples need this attention. Aloha, Selene Mersereau

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 8:55 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kleenglass@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Nerger
Organization: Individual
Address: P.O. Box 2963 Kailua-Kona
Phone: 896-7641
E-mail: kleenglass@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

Aloha!

I disagree with HB2029, Please don't pass it.

Mahalo.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 7:46 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: stsukayama@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shari M. Tsukayama
Organization: Individual
Address: PO Box 893391 Mililani, Hawaii 96789
Phone: 808-497-2468
E-mail: stsukayama@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii.

I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 9:45 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: snowyziemba@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Jennifer Ziemba
Organization: Individual
Address: 3115 Diamond Head Rd. #A Honolulu, HI 96815
Phone: 415-505-6071
E-mail: snowyziemba@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:
Eliminating MFT licenses will hurt the state of Hawaii.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 10:01 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rachelle.furtado@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB2029 Testimony.doc

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rachelle Furtado
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: (808) 870-8382
E-mail: rachelle.furtado@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 9:06 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: shannonkona@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shannon Rudolph
Organization: Individual
Address: P. O. 243 Holualoa
Phone: 808-322-6604
E-mail: shannonkona@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

Aloha,

Please don't pass HB2029. This is a ridiculous bill. Many people are at the end of their ropes and seeing therapists, If you take away licensing, most people will not be able to continue with therapy or counseling which could spell disaster for many of Hawai'i's families. This bill is shameful.

Mahalo,

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 10:35 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jennifer.roberts@live.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Roberts
Organization: Individual
Address: 1063 Kamookoa Pl. Honolulu
Phone: 808-393-6060
E-mail: jennifer.roberts@live.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

Marriage and Family Therapists provide essential mental health services to the people of Hawaii. I ask for your support by voting against HB2029.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
nt: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 10:25 PM
to: FINTestimony
Cc: merwitte@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Selene Mersereau
Organization: Action with Aloha
Address: 970 N. Kalaheo Ave. 96734
Phone: 782-3110
E-mail: merwitte@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

Please oppose this bill. We have all worked very hard and appreciate your support. Aloha.
Selene Mersereau

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 10:56 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: cowanr73@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rebecca Cowan
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: cowanr73@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

I oppose this bill. The people of Hawaii require competent mental health care now more than ever, and elimination of licensure for marriage and family therapists would make such care even more difficult to come by. Please do not pass this bill.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 1:51 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: nanapamw@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pam Willingham
Organization: Individual
Address: 2204 Marigold Ave. Fort Worth, TX
Phone: 817.368.6167
E-mail: nanapamw@sbcglobal.net
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 5:50 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Jennifer@kauaifamilytherapy.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Jennifer Stevens, MA, MFT
Organization: Individual
Address: 2975 Haleko Rd. Ste. 307 Lihue, HI 96766
Phone: (808)482-0994
E-mail: Jennifer@kauaifamilytherapy.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 6:34 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: eloiselewis21@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eloise Lewis
Organization: Individual
Address: 4348 Waialae Ave #556 Honolulu
Phone: 808/393-1204
E-mail: eloiselewis21@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
It: Thursday, February 18, 2010 7:18 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: missaya@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Aya Nakajima
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 808-554-6878
E-mail: missaya@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 4:15 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: cconnolly@catholiccharitieshawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Coleman Connolly, MFT
Organization: Individual
Address: 1031 Maunaihi Place #1001 Honolulu, HI
Phone: 386-2725
E-mail: cconnolly@catholiccharitieshawaii.org
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 8:33 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kapua.sawyer@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kapuahelelaonalani Sawyer
Organization: Individual
Address: 495 Haihai Street
Phone: 808-896-6465
E-mail: kapua.sawyer@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 8:39 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: drmillerr@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dr. Marian Miller
Organization: Individual
Address: 1454 Akeke Place Kailua
Phone: 262-3345
E-mail: drmillerr@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 8:49 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: angiebrownumba@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Angelina Brown
Organization: Individual
Address: 91-202 Makahaiwaa Place Kapolei
Phone: 808-744-2288
E-mail: angiebrownumba@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 6:49 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kimeemartinez@casefamily.com
Subject: Testkimeemartinez@casefamily.comimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kimberlee Martinez
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kimeemartinez@casefamily.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 7:07 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tafuna@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: sione tafuna
Organization: Individual
Address: 56-119 pualalea street kahuku, hi 96731
Phone: 8087830403
E-mail: tafuna@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 7:08 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tafuna@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: richard tafuna
Organization: Individual
Address: 56-119 pualalea street kahuku, hi 96731
Phone: 8087830403
E-mail: tafuna@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 7:28 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: arliemcd@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Arlie McDaniel
Organization: Individual
Address: 1340A Moanalualani Pl. Honolulu, HI
Phone: 728-1340
E-mail: arliemcd@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 9:50 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: akelekamika@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ashley Monroy
Organization: Hale Kipa
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: akelekamika@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 9:55 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: honuikanalu@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Gundaker
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: honuikanalu@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 9:19 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: marieterry@mail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: marie terry-bivens, psy.d.
Organization: Individual
Address: 2905 mokoi st lihue hi
Phone: 8083327190
E-mail: marieterry@mail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 8:08 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mcinvalemail@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Angela McInvale
Organization: Individual
Address: 91-2072 Kaioli St. #4503 HI
Phone: 808 542-6523
E-mail: mcinvalemail@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 10:42 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: klwcoach@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kim Willis
Organization: Individual
Address: 402 Monarch Pl Lahaina, HI
Phone: 808-669-4408
E-mail: klwcoach@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 10:01 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: pakalana@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jenel Okamoto
Organization: Individual
Address: 94-1070 Kahimoe Place Waipahu, HI
Phone: 375-8880
E-mail: pakalana@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 12:05 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dlierm@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diane Lierman
Organization: Individual
Address: 203 Aiokoa Kailua, Hi. 96734
Phone: 808 254-5054
E-mail: dlierm@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 1:36 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: eliz.schilling@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Elizabeth C. Schilling

Organization: Individual

Address: 68-3831 Lua-Kula St. H207 Waikoloa, Hawaii 96738

Phone: 808-896-8425

E-mail: eliz.schilling@gmail.com

Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 3:00 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mr_smeeee@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brandon Flewelling
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mr_smeeee@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 6:22 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ainoue@pixi.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alice Inoue
Organization: Individual
Address: 2111 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808 598-2655
E-mail: ainoue@pixi.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
nt: Thursday, February 18, 2010 3:09 PM
to: FINTestimony
Cc: mungfa@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mung Fa Chung
Organization: Individual
Address: Young street Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-218-0650
E-mail: mungfa@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

I am born and raised in China and currently living in Hawaii.

I am strongly OPPOSE HB2029, I believe that the MFT field should be regulated. Not anyone in the street can help us in the field of Marriage and Family, we need some professionals that are well-trained and we can trust.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
At: Thursday, February 18, 2010 9:54 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jeffirwin77@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jeff irwin
Organization: Individual
Address: kailua kona
Phone: 808-331-
E-mail: jeffirwin77@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

" I am a resident of Kona, who greatly opposes HB 2029. As an outer island resident, I can attest to the fact that Health Care Access ability can be very difficult. I realize that Marriage and Family therapists provide a vital role here in our community, especially in the wake of the countries economic crisis. Please do not allow this vital resource to be removed, and please do not take away the license for the Marriage and Family Therapists in the State of Hawaii Sincerely,"

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 10:08 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: juliesmith@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Julie Smith
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 8082862147
E-mail: juliesmith@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

I oppose this bill that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J) because of the importance that this professional licensed service provides for our families and communities of Hawai'i.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 10:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jmotohiro@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2029 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2029

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Jon Motohiro
Organization: Individual
Address: 1260 Kina St. Kailua, HI
Phone: 263-0604
E-mail: jmotohiro@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

I am strongly opposed towards HB2029 HD1