

## FINTestimony

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**From:** Ogawa, Sharon [sharon.ogawa@westin.com]  
**ent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 11:29 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** Late Testimony for Friday 2-19-10 regarding deregulation of the Cosmetology Industry in Hawaii  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Aloha,

I am writing in regard to the Bill **HB2029 HD1** in regards to de-regulation of the Cosmetology industry in Hawaii.

I am a Spa Director in Hawaii, and I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** this bill. The Board of Cosmetology helps to ensure that all estheticians, nail technicians, barbers and all Cosmetologists practice safe and ethical services on clients. They also ensure that safe cleaning and maintenance of facilities is upheld. Their function is critical to the protection of consumers and necessary as a state regulatory board to keep the Day Spas, Resort Spas and individual therapists accountable. The DCCA will not be able to effectively manage this process with the necessary consistency, and I feel that this consistent oversight and regulated standards are critical to the safety of our guests.

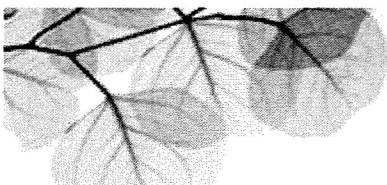
As a Spa Director, I receive multiple comments and concerns from guests who have experienced fungal infections, allergic reactions, or other harmful care during facials. They already express high anxiety over the potential damage due to unsafe cosmetologist practices. There has been a large amount of press and research done on the potential harm caused by unsafe cleaning and treatment practices – particularly with regards to pedicure and other nail services. Additionally, barbers and cosmetologists are able to use straight razors and chemical applications to the face; By deregulating the industry and thereby invalidating the requirements for safe practice through licensure, we create a huge risk to our consumers and customers.

Please do not pass the Bill **HB2029 HDI** and deregulating the Cosmetology industry in Hawaii.

Thank You for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

**Sharon Ogawa** Director of Spa  
moana surfrider, a westin resort & spa  
passion living  
2365 kalakaua avenue honolulu, hawaii 96815  
tel 808.923.2827 fax 808.237.2543  
view the resort **Moana Surfrider Virtual Experience**  
elevate your senses > [www.moanalanispa.com](http://www.moanalanispa.com)



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**LATE TESTIMONY**

**RE: HB 2029**

I am in strong opposition to SB 2029, specifically with regard to the non regulation/licensure of hearing aid fitters & dealers. To my best knowledge, every state in the USA requires licensing and regulation of hearing aid dispensers (referred to as hearing aid fitters & dealers in Hawaii). If the licensing requirement is removed, it most likely will lead to many unintended consequences such as:

1. Ability of individuals who have lost their license in another state, presumably due to wrongdoing and/or unethical behavior to be able to freely dispense hearing aids in our state.
2. Such ease of entry and lack of rules governing the practice would most likely affect our seniors dramatically, by allowing anyone including those who have a past history of exploiting seniors to lawfully be able to dispense hearing aids.

We currently have a very low incidence of complaints against hearing aid fitters & dealers in Hawaii, as referenced by the non existence in 2008-2009. Please verify with DCCA.

In addition, since hearing aid fitters & dealers and audiologists both perform overlapping functions, such as testing the hearing, recommending the proper type of hearing aids, programming them, counseling the end users and providing follow up care, it is my opinion that the wording in HB 2029 excludes the hearing aid fitters & dealers and favors the Audiologist with the protection of regulation.

Thus, I respectfully request that the hearing aid fitters & dealers be removed from this bill. I thank you sincerely for your careful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

**Osamu Manabe**  
**BC, HIS**  
**Hearing Aid Fitter & Dealer License 104, Hawaii**

Date: 02/22/10

To: Representative Robert Herkes, Chair  
Representative Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

RE: Opposition to HB 2029, relating to Professional and Occupations

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 3, 2010

Dear Representative Herkes and Members of the Consumer Protection Committee:

My name is Randy Wohlers and I am writing in opposition to HB 2029 which would repeal the State regulatory process and oversight of Hearing Aid Fitters and Dispensers.

I have been a Hearing Aid fitter and dispenser for 35 years. I am board certified and have been recognized nationally for providing the highest level of competency and care for my patients. I employ over 9 fitters and dispensers state wide at 6 location state wide. My practices see over 150 people daily for service and hearing health care procedures. We have under our care over six thousand patients that we see every 3 months to assure the best possible hearing and communication is provided for all our patients. Our average patient is 75 years old, that means we take care of your mom, dad or your grandparents.

Our educational requirements are stringent and set the standard, our standard is recognized nationwide. The Board Certification requirements are stringent and administered and require yearly continued education which all my dispensers follow.

My fear is the care and level of care for my patients will diminish if we are not excluded from this bill. We would be the only state in the union that is not regulated by the state. This would encourage anyone who was dismissed from any state from practicing to come Hawaii and practice. The deregulating of our profession, which has been the main stay for our senior population would be catastrophic.

I urge you to please repeal Hearing Aid Fitters and Dispensers from this bill.

Sincerely,

Randy Wohlers  
Family Hearing Aid Center

## FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
At: Friday, February 19, 2010 3:01 PM  
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](mailto:zansparadise@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/19/2010

**LATE**

### 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.

February 21, 2010

**Testimony by:**  
**Shari Krick, M.F.T**  
**HB 2029, Professions and Occupations**  
**House FIN Hearing – Monday February 22, 2010**  
**Position: Oppose**

Chair Oshiro, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am a Marriage and Family Therapist on the island of Maui. Marriage and Family Therapists serve a vital function in our communities with the focus on treating and healing the families we serve. As a MFT in a rural area we like other health care professions are in great demand. Removing our ability to serve the families here in Hawaii will have a negative impact that will be felt in our institutions such as jails, prisons, and hospitals that struggle with overpopulation already. Insurance companies rely on our expertise to treat and prevent a variety of mental health issues and can only continue to utilize MFT's if we are regulated by a State Government agency.

Personally, I came to Hawaii to practice as a MFT because of the alignment of shared core values of my occupation with the deeply held cultural beliefs of honoring ones "Ohana". While I understand the complexities facing your committee during this challenging fiscal year, I urge you to not turn your back on Hawaii's families. Maybe like me you have a family member who suffered from a mental illness, suicide or drug abuse. If we remove services to treat your sister, your uncle or even you we fail to take care of each other.

Finally, we remove the hope that I see in the eyes of my clients. Many have been through tragedies that propel them into places that harm our islands. When we heal the past we create a beautiful future, not only for our clients but also for their children and several generations to come.

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

I can be reached at (808) 214-4650

Sincerely,

Shari Krick, MA. MFT

## FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 1:22 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: rstanley@makanaacademy.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: Rhonda Stanley  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 1168 Waimanu St. 2nd floor Honolulu, Hawaii  
Phone: 3526185  
E-mail: [rstanley@makanaacademy.com](mailto:rstanley@makanaacademy.com)  
Submitted on: 2/19/2010

## LATE TESTIMONY

### Comments:

Please take a good look at what this means to the public.

I am a cosmetologist who, along with many of my fellow professionals, attended beauty school in Hawaii and learned the how's and whys of this profession.

I am now an instructor at a beauty academy, that specializes in esthetics.

Here at the academy, we emphasize the importance of learning the basics and the sanitation rules and regulations set forth by the State of Hawaii.

We pride ourselves in the knowledge that our students receive the best education available.

One cannot obtain the type of knowledge and skills we provide by not going out and getting the education that is required.

The next step is to pass the state examination, then we attain the title of being a professional .

Being a licensed professional is a great accomplishment.

Abolishing the need for good education and the requirements to be a professional just demeans the industry as a whole.

The public, you, your family members and everyone you know will be at risk from receiving services done, at any salon or spa, that does not have professional, licensed, knowledgeable and conscientious operators.

Professional licensing is a necessary part of this occupation, cancelling the need for a license will put the public at a precarious place.

We have a lot of knowledge that the public does not have, in order to do this profession safely and responsibly.

Any kind of deregulation just makes this another job.

"Just another job" leaves the public in a hazardous and risky situation.



Thank you for your time.

`loha,  
honda Stanley

**Brian Lim, PhD**

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Suite A-212  
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Email: drbrianlim@gmail.com

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

February 19, 2010

**LATE TESTIMONY**

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 am very grateful for my colleagues who are marriage and family therapists (MFTs), and I ask that you please consider the following reasons I am joining with them in opposing this bill:

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,

Brian Lim, PhD

Ursula Steffany, MSCP  
98-500 Koauka Lp. # 23 D  
Aiea, HI 96701  
(808) 741-2079

## LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony by:  
Ursula Steffany, MSCP  
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:

My name is Ursula Steffany, MSCP. I recently sat the MFT licensure exam on February 5, 2010 and am awaiting the results. I have been working at a non-profit agency as a family counselor for the past five years providing home based individual and family counseling to clients mainly from rural areas, which for several reasons, may be unable to receive this much needed service.

I chose to study as a MFT and become a licensed MFT because MFTs are the only professionals required to be trained in family therapy. I feel that my training in this field had allowed me to provide quality therapy to the clients I serve.

I believe that Hawaii's culture is unique to the treatment of families; it is one where the families are embraced and family issues are effectively dealt with. It is my goal to become a licensed MFT and to continue to provide therapy to the population I currently serve. On a more personal note, as a Pacific Islander myself, I am passionate about treating other Pacific Islanders under the models of Marriage and Family Therapy.

I strongly **OPPOSE** the bill **HB 2029, Professions and Occupations** that would repeal Marriage and Family Therapy (HRS Chapter 451J).

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

I can be reached at (808) 741-2079 if additional information is needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter and voice my opinion.

Sincerely,  
Ursula Steffany, MSCP