

Testimony of the Board of Massage Therapy

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Monday, March 30, 2026
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 & Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 578, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MICHAEL BASTA JR.,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alan Yim, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Massage Therapy (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Mr. Basta's reappointment to the Board as a licensee member.

Mr. Basta is a licensed beauty operator, originally licensed on June 19, 2017, and has decades of professional experience in the cosmetology industry. Since his appointment to the Board in 2022, Mr. Basta has been an active and engaged member, attending all scheduled meetings. His perspective as a licensee has provided valuable insight to inform the Board's decisions.

The Board looks forward to his continued service and to working with him for another term.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Melinda Delmonico
Supervisory Program Analyst
Veteran's Affairs
459 Patterson Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96819
Melinda.delmonico@va.gov
808-221-7934
Mar. 10, 2026

Hawaii State Board of Cosmetology and Hairdressers
Honolulu, HI

Subject: **Letter of Recommendation for Michael Basta Jr.**

To the Esteemed Members of the Hawaii State Board of Cosmetology and Barbering,

It is with great pride and absolute confidence that I recommend Michael Basta Jr. for consideration as a continued member of the Hawaii State Cosmetology and Barbering Board. With more than 30 years of exemplary experience in the industry, Mr. Basta brings a depth of knowledge, leadership, and professionalism that would serve the Board and the State of Hawaii with distinction.

Throughout an impressive career spanning over three decades, Mr. Basta has demonstrated mastery in all facets of the profession. As a salon owner, he successfully built and managed a reputable business known for its high standards, innovation, and exceptional client service. As a Master Stylist, he has continually elevated the craft through advanced technical skill, creativity, and a commitment to ongoing education.

In addition to his work behind the chair and in salon leadership, Mr. Basta served as a platform artist for Nexus, representing the brand with professionalism, artistry, and charisma. His ability to speak confidently, educate others, and inspire diverse audiences reflects a rare combination of expertise and communication skills.

What truly sets Mr. Basta apart is his extensive understanding of the regulations, health and safety standards, and professional guidelines that govern the industry. He upholds these standards rigorously and has long been an advocate for compliance, accountability, and best practices. I am confident that this strong regulatory awareness, paired with decades of real-world experience, would make him a valuable asset to the Board's mission and decision-making responsibilities.

Michael Basta Jr. has my highest recommendation for this appointment. He is dedicated, knowledgeable, articulate, and deeply committed to advancing and protecting the cosmetology profession in Hawaii. I am confident that his service on the Board would greatly benefit both industry professionals and the community at large.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you require any additional information, I would be pleased to provide it.

Sincerely,

Melinda Delmonico

Melinda Delmonico
Supervisory Program Analyst