

**Maureen Sullivan Riley, MS, MPH
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LATE TESTIMONY

DATE: March 24, 2008

TO: The Honorable Representative Robert N. Herkes, Chair; The Honorable Representative Angus L. K. McKelvey, Vice – Chair and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

FROM: **Maureen Sullivan Riley**
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RE: SB 2159 HD1, Relating to Professions

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2159 HD1.

I am currently a Masters student at UH Hilo in the Counseling Psychology Program. My intention is to combine my background in Public Health with a degree in counseling psychology in order to broaden my knowledge base in mental health services.

For me, the most critical issue to look at in terms of healthcare is access to services. As a resident of the Big Island, I see the dire need for qualified mental health counselors first hand. Access to quality mental health counselors is a critical component of the provision of health services to a population.

Towards this end, I strongly support the continued licensure and provisions for vendorship for qualified mental health counselors.

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.