

Stacie Sato-Sugimoto, LMHC

DATE: February 11, 2008

TO: The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair, The Honorable Senator Carol
Fukunaga, Vice – Chair and Members of the Committee on Health

FROM: **Stacie SatoSugimoto, LMHC**
Behavioral Health Specialist

RE: SB 2159, Relating to Professions

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2159.

I currently work with children and adolescents and know that there is a need for more mental health professionals to address the needs of Hawaii's children. Due to our extensive training in both therapeutic techniques as well as cultural sensitivity, mental health counselors are able to provide effective mental health care to our islands culturally diverse children and adolescents. In addition to providing top care to our island's future leaders, mental health counselors can provide therapies that would highly compliment the work that our psychiatrists who prescribe medication to our clients. However, none of this will be possible unless there is a continuation of the Hawaii Mental Health Counselors Licensure law.

The most important aspect of the Hawaii Mental Health Counselors Licensure Law is that it will guarantee that highly qualified, well trained mental health care professionals will be able to provide quality mental health care in our state.

I encourage you to pass SB 2159 out of the Committee on Health

May Mizuno

From: Monica Evans [MonicaEvans@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 11:34 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 2159 testimony 2/11/08

Monica Evans, MSCP, NCC, LMHC
95-223 Auhaele Loop
Mililani, HI 96789

DATE: February 11, 2008
1:15 PM
Conference Room 016

TO: The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair,
The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Committee on Health

FROM: Monica Evans, MSCP, NCC, LMHC
808-625-0112
monicaevans@hawaii.rr.com

RE: SB 2159, Relating to Professions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2159.

While on active duty in the Army, my husband was stationed for 11 months in Iraq. I can attest to the severe strain that families experience while a loved one serves in a war zone. Recent statistics have indicated a steep increase in divorce rates among military related families.

Many veterans and their family members need mental health services. The aftermaths of this war will affect all of us for many years to come.

Licensed Mental Health Counselors provide essential care to the families of our veterans. It is imperative that licensure for these mental health professionals continues.

I encourage you to pass SB 2159 out of the Committee on Health.

May Mizuno

From: Gerald Evans [GeraldEvans@Hawaii.RR.Com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 11:39 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 2159 Testimony 2/11/08

Gerald Evans, M.D.
95-223 Auhaele Loop
Mililani, HI 96789

DATE: February 11, 2008
1:15 PM
Conference Room 016

TO: The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair,
The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Committee on Health
Conference Room 016

FROM: Gerald Evans, M.D.
808-625-0112
geraldevans@hawaii.rr.com

RE: SB 2159, Relating to Professions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2159.

In the state of Hawai'i, the number of people who are homeless, disabled and commit crimes has definitely increased due to the ice epidemic/use of amphetamines. Qualified mental health counselors are needed to care for these individuals and their families. Licensed Mental Health Counselors play a most important role in addressing these challenges.

I encourage you to pass SB 2159 out of the Committee on Health.