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PRESENTATION OF
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2012

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012
2:00 P.M.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2013 H.D.1
RELATING TO MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO") of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2013 H.D.1, Relating To Mixed Martial Arts. My name is Daria Loy-Goto, Acting Complaints and Enforcement Officer for RICO. RICO offers the following comments on the bill.

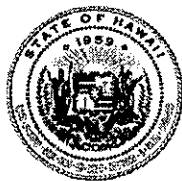
House Bill No. 2013 H.D.1 amends the definition of "mixed martial arts" to "a full contact sport where the objective is to physically damage an opponent."

RICO has concerns that the amended definition is vague and overbroad, and, as a result, would be difficult to enforce. Under current law, it is clear that "mixed martial arts" consists of a combination of techniques from different disciplines and that the use of mixed martial arts is subject to any limits set forth in the chapter or administrative rules.

House Bill No. 2013 H.D.1 deletes the current language and replaces it with so broad a definition of mixed martial arts that almost any form of contact sport, including martial arts, would fall within the scope of chapter 440E, Hawaii Revised Statutes. If the intent of this bill is to include or exclude certain mixed martial arts or martial arts activities, RICO seeks a clearer definition of the regulated activity to promote more effective enforcement.

RICO is aware that the Department's Mixed Martial Arts Program has proposed a revised definition of "mixed martial arts." RICO has reviewed the language and supports the revised definition because it offers sufficient clarity and will facilitate enforcement of chapter 440E, HRS.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2013 H.D.1. I will be happy to answer any questions that the members of the Committee may have.



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**PRESENTATION OF THE
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2012

Wednesday, February 22, 2012
2:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2013, H.D. 1, RELATING TO MIXED MARTIAL
ARTS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Alan Taniguchi, Executive Officer for the Hawaii Mixed Martial Arts Program, Professional and Vocational Licensing Division ("PVLDD") of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill No. 2013, H.D. 1, Relating to Mixed Martial Arts. The Department strongly supports this bill.

This bill amends the definition of mixed martial arts to include the regulation of other disciplines that use striking. As a result of an inquiry by a licensed mixed martial arts ("MMA") promoter, the Attorney General's office opined that based on the current MMA definition, the disciplines of kickboxing, pankration, muay tai, and xtreme martial

arts are not covered under Chapter 440E, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Without the inclusion of these disciplines, there is no requirement for contestants' blood work or the presence of licensed physicians, referees, judges, and ambulance at events. The risk of injury in events with these disciplines is just as great as current regulated MMA events. The purpose of regulating MMA is to protect the health and safety of the contestants.

In consultation with the Attorney General's Office and the Regulated Industries Complaints Office, we would like to suggest an alternative definition:

"Mixed martial arts" means unarmed combat involving the use, subject to any applicable limits set forth in this chapter and any rules adopted to implement these limits, of a combination of techniques, including grappling, kicking, and striking, from different disciplines of martial arts[, ~~including grappling, kicking, and striking~~].

Kickboxing, pankration, muay thai, and xtreme martial arts shall be considered "mixed martial arts" for purposes of this chapter."

This would specifically include the disciplines we believe need regulation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill with suggested amendments.