

HB 2013, HD 2

EDT



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

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2012

Monday, March 19, 2012
1:30 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2013, H.D. 2, RELATING TO MIXED MARTIAL
ARTS.**

TO THE HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA, 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 of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill No. 2013, H.D. 2, 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. 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

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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 currently regulated MMA events. The purpose of regulating MMA is to protect the health and safety of the contestants. The language in House Bill No. 2013, H.D. 2, is a result of consultation with the Attorney General's Office and the Regulated Industries Complaints Office.

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



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REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE

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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2013 H.D.2
RELATING TO MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

TO THE HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE GLENN WAKAI, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO") of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs appreciates the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2013 H.D.2, 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.2 amends the definition of "mixed martial arts" to include kickboxing, pankration, muay thai, and xtreme martial arts. The bill also has a defective effective date.

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RICO takes no position on whether these activities should be included in the definition of "mixed martial arts", but notes that the definition in the current draft offers sufficient clarity that will facilitate RICO's enforcement of chapter 440E, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

In addition, RICO respectfully requests that the bill be amended to include an effective date of July 1, 2012. A specific effective date would make it clear to all interested parties when the revised definition would go into effect.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2013 H.D.2. I will be happy to answer any questions that the members of the Committee may have.