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

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AND BUSINESS

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2012

Tuesday, January 24, 2012  
8:30 a.m.

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

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, 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 ("PVLD") of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill No. 2013, 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 ("HRS"). 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.

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