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

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Wednesday, February 20, 2013
3:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 370, 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 with the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 370, Relating to Mixed Martial Arts. On January 30, 2013, the House Committee on Health held a hearing on this bill and passed it out unamended.

The purpose of this bill is to repeal the requirement that an ambulance with paramedics be present at a mixed martial arts ("MMA") event.

Although this amendment may appear to jeopardize the health and safety of an MMA contestant, in reality, it may not be possible for MMA promoters to comply with the current statute.

On some of the neighbor islands, the only ambulance available is provided by the county, and a private entity is not allowed to hire the county ambulance.

On Oahu, American Medical Response (“AMR”), the only Oahu-based private ambulance company, will not transport an injured contestant to the hospital. According to AMR, if a promoter wanted to transport an injured contestant to a hospital emergency room, the promoter must provide its own transportation or call 911.

Dr. Caesar Ursic, Queen’s Hospital’s medical director for trauma services was quoted in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser when asked about ambulances standing by at football games. “I don’t think having an ambulance sitting there on the field is really that necessary. They can be pretty much anywhere on the island within minutes.”

Based on the above information, it would appear that promoters are unable to or are having difficulty with complying with the current statutory requirement. Furthermore, the statute requires the presence of two licensed physicians at every event, and they may be able to stabilize an injured contestant until the county ambulance arrives at the scene.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

kawakami2 - Rise

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2013 11:25 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: c0194379@opayq.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB370 on Feb 20, 2013 15:00PM*

HB370

Submitted on: 2/16/2013

Testimony for CPC on Feb 20, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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