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

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2013

Wednesday, January 30, 2013  
8:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 370, RELATING TO MIXED MARTIAL ARTS.**

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, 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.

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 ambulances 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.

**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 11:29 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** chris@onzuka.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB370 on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM

**HB370**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for HLT on Jan 30, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Onzuka	O2 Martial Arts Academy	Support	No

Comments: House Bill 370 Testimony My name is Chris Onzuka and I am the co-owner and head instructor of the O2 Martial Arts Academy, located at 98- 019 Kamehameha Hwy, #208A, Aiea, Hawaii 96701. My martial arts school has been open since 1995 and I have been involved in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) in a variety of capacities since the first event that was held in the United States in 1993. Locally I have served as a Judge, Referee, coach, corner, reporter and have also assisted MMA and kickboxing promoters with their events. I recently heard about this amendment to the current law regarding MMA in Hawaii. I am in support of this bill because I agree that the response time of an ambulance when calling 911 is excellent and will provide the needed medical support in a reasonable amount of time. Events are already required to have a medical professional at the event. From my experience, and I believe the physicians that attend, assist at the events and support the sport of MMA will agree, that they are fully capable of making an accurate assessment if the athlete requires to be transported to a hospital. And I also believe that they will be able to provide more than sufficient care while a call is made to 911 until the ambulance arrives. Due to having these medical professionals on site, the athletes and attendees of these events are already receiving a higher level of care than the rest of us have if a medical emergency occurred to us while at home or at another location where we would have to make the same 911 call. Another benefit of this amendment is that it will reduce the financial burden on MMA promoters. Since the law regarding MMA has been enacted, the sport of MMA has all but died in Hawaii. MMA was a hotbed of not only events, but also for MMA competitors. It provided a venue for athletes and youth to train and compete in a safe manner. It has changed the lives of many troubled adults and youth by giving them a reason to train and compete instead of get into trouble on the streets. Now that kickboxing has been added to the "definition" of Mixed Martial Arts, kickboxing, which were holding monthly events and allowing over 50 athletes to compete on a monthly basis has also just about died in Hawaii. So add the hundreds of individuals that train in kickboxing to those MMA competitors that also lost a venue to compete and focus their energies in a positive way. I am in support of regulations to increase the safety of the sports of MMA and kickboxing, but I feel that this amendment is another example of a corrective measure that is needed due to OVER regulation. I hope that this is a start of real review and reform of the existing law, where Legislators, promoters, athletes and instructors can open up discussions and work together to finalize a law that provides adequate safety for the athletes, is reasonable for the promoters and provides Legislators a comfort level where they feel that they have put together a law that meets these safety requirements and also allows the positive aspects of these two sports to flourish. Thank you for this opportunity and please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions or concerns. Sincerely, Chris Onzuka Co-Owner & Head Instructor O2 Martial Arts Academy 98-019 Kamehameha Hwy, #208A Aiea, Hawaii 96701 (808) 381-5959 [Chris@Onzuka.com](mailto:Chris@Onzuka.com)

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