

April 8, 2013

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair
Representative Della Au Belatti
Representative Tom Brower
Representative Rida T. R. Cabanilla
Representative Romy M. Cachola
Representative Mele Carroll
Representative Cindy Evans
Representative Sharon E. Har
Representative Ken Ito
Representative Chris Lee
Representative Clift Tsuji
Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Representative Bob McDermott
Representative Cynthia Thielen

April 10, 2013 2:10pm Conference Room 325

FROM: Shelley Shane, MA, MFT; AAMFT Hawaii Division Board Member—West Hawaii

RE: HCR 199/ HR 160 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists
(HSCR 1358/ - **SUPPORT**
HSCR 1357)

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, my name is Shelley Shane. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HCR 199 and HR 160 (HSCR 1358/HSCR 1357) Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons:

- Continuing education increases the knowledge base and competency levels of Marriage and Family Therapy professionals.

- Continuing education requirements ensure that licensed Marriage and Family Therapists have access to best practices and innovations in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy and can continue to provide quality services to an array of clients.
- Continuing education opportunities will continue to be available statewide via in-person webinars, and teleconferences by approved providers.
- All states, except Michigan, New York, and Hawaii, have continuing education requirements for licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and currently NY has a bill pending to require CE. CE is a national standard. We Marriage and Family Therapists want to be recognized as meeting that standard.
- Marriage and Family Therapists provide critical services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to a broad spectrum of clientele.
- Consumer Protection: Requiring continuing education courses for Marriage and Family Therapists who are renewing their licenses will give assurance to Hawaii's consumers that Marriage and Family Therapists are current with the latest developments in their field.

I urge your favorable consideration of HCR 199/HR 160 (HSCR 1358/HSCR 1357). Thank you for this opportunity to testify.