

# HB2031

Measure Title: RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.

Report Title: Marriage and Family Therapists; Continuing Education

Description: Requires licensed marriage and family therapists to complete a minimum of forty-five hours of continuing education courses, including six hours in ethic courses, during each licensing renewal period, for the period beginning January 1, 2017, and thereafter.

Companion: SB2466

Package: None

Current Referral: CPN, WAM

Introducer(s): MCKELVEY, BELATTI



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. Box 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
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KEALI'I S. LOPEZ  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

## **PRESENTATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS PROGRAM**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

Thursday, March 13, 2014  
9:30 a.m.

### **TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2031, RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lynn Bhanot, and I am the Executive Officer of the Marriage and Family Therapists Program ("Program"). Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill No. 2031.

By way of background, the Department and the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Hawaii Division ("AAMFT Hawaii") were requested pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 88, S.D. 1, which was adopted by the Senate of the Twenty-Seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, to submit a proposed draft for a bill to establish, implement, and monitor continuing education requirements for all licensed marriage and family therapists ("MFT") in the State of

Hawaii. As such, after a series of discussion between the parties, a proposed bill was submitted to the State of Hawaii Legislature.

As written, the Program supports this bill as it will ensure that licensed marriage and family therapists maintain their professional competency and keep abreast of the latest developments in their profession. Currently in Hawaii, there are 332 licensed MFTs who will be required to obtain continuing education credits as proposed by this bill. However, similar to other professions that require continuing education, the Program in consultation with the AAMFT Hawaii, agreed to perform post-renewal random audits of 5% - 10% of its licensees who renew their MFT licenses. By choosing to perform random audits, there will be minimal impact on the workload of the administrative staff.

Presently, Hawaii is one of two remaining states that do not require continuing education credits as part of its licensing laws.

For the Committee's information, the Senate companion measure, Senate Bill No. 2466, was scheduled for a hearing by the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce on March 12, 2014.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2031.

**HB2031**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 13, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Carlton-Jarmon	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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**HB2031**

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 13, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shelley Shane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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S. Joy Quick, MA, MFT, CSAPA/AAMFT Hawaii  
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 10, 2014

TO:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

RE: HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists

### LETTER OF SUPPORT

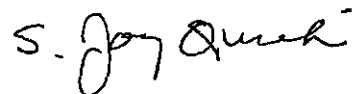
Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, my name is Joy Quick. I am a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill 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 and Hawaii, have continuing education requirements for licensed marriage and family therapists. 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 HB 2031. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



S. Joy Quick

Catherine Bruns, MFT  
970 N. Kalaheo Ave. A-211  
Kailua, HI 96734

March 10, 2014

TO:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists

**LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, my name is (name). I am a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists.

*I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:*

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I urge your favorable consideration of HB 2031. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Bruns, MFT



94-1221 Ka Uka Blvd., Suite B202  
Waipahu, HI 96797  
Ofc (808) 389-9369  
Fax (808) 671-0222

March 10, 2014

TO:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists

### LETTER OF SUPPORT

Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, my name is (name). I am a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists.

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I urge your favorable consideration of HB 2031. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Warmest Aloha,

Rhesa R. Kaulia, MC/MFT, MFT #156  
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist  
President, Grace Works, LLC  
AAMFT and AAMFT-HI Clinical Fellow

Rhesa R. Kaulia, MFT #156  
Licensed Marriage & Family  
Therapist



Mark Matsushita  
95-1030 F Ainamakua Drive  
Mililani HI 96789

March 10, 2014

TO:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, my name is (name). I am a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists.

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- 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 HB 2031. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mark Matsushita

Janet Covington, LMHC  
240 Kilea Place  
Wahiawa, HI 96786

March 10, 2014

TO:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2031/SB2466 SD1 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists

## **LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

My name is Janet Covington and I am a Hawaii Licensed Mental Health Counselor and National Certified Counselor. I strongly support HB 2031/SB2466 SD1 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists as I believe mandating continuing education for licensed healthcare professionals will strengthen the profession as a whole and provide for higher levels of care for our clients.

I strongly support this bill 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 and Hawaii, have continuing education requirements for licensed marriage and family therapists. CE is a national standard. We Marriage and Family Therapists want to be recognized as meeting that standard.
- Marriage and Family Therapists (and LMHCs!) 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 HB 2031/SB2466 SD1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Janet Covington

Jacy L. Campbell, MFT, CSAC, SAP  
94-1012 Hoainau St.  
Waipahu, HI 96797

March 11, 2014

TO:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists

### LETTER OF SUPPORT

Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, my name is Jacy L. Campbell. I am a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill 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.
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- 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 HB 2031. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Jacy L. Campbell, MFT, CSAC, SAP

**MITCHELL BERMAN, MA**  
**Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist**  
3620 Baldwin Avenue, Suite 201  
Makawao, HI 96768  
**(808) 280-1670**

March 10, 2014

TO:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists

**LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, my name is (name). I am a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists.

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I urge your favorable consideration of HB 2031. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Berman, MA  
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

Irish Acoba  
94-580 Apii Place  
Waipahu, HI 96797

March 11, 2014

TO:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists

### LETTER OF SUPPORT

Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, my name is Irish Acoba. I am a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists.

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I urge your favorable consideration of HB 2031. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Shaunda Purdy-Feiteira  
1038 Spencer St. Apt 503, Honolulu HI 96822

March 12, 2014

TO:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, my name is Shaunda Purdy-Feiteira. I am a Chaminade University Graduate MSCP student studying to be a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

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I urge your favorable consideration of HB 2031. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Shaunda Purdy-Feiteira

Virginia Jones, MA  
444 Auwina Place, Kailua, HI, 96734  
[mytherapistvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:mytherapistvirginia@gmail.com) / 808-226-3436

March 10, 2014

TO:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, my name is Virginia Jones and I am a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

I strongly support HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

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- 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 HB 2031. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Virginia Jones, MFT, LMHC, NC, CSAC, SAP

Alan Y Tamai  
2139 Maha Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

March 10, 2014

TO:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

And Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, my name is (name). I am a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

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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 HB 2031. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Alan Y Tamai



Natalia A. Matsumoto

227 Iliwai Drive,

Wahiawa, HI 96786

March 12, 2014

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

And Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists

#### LETTER OF SUPPORT

Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, my name is Natalia A. Matsumoto. I am a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- \* Continuing education increases the knowledge base and competency levels of marriage and family therapy professionals.
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I sincerely urge your favorable consideration of HB 2031. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Natalia A. Matsumoto, MA, MFT, CSAC

Name  
Address

March 10, 2014

TO:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

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I urge your favorable consideration of HB 2031. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Donovan MA MFT private practice Kailua Kona