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**PRESENTATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS PROGRAM**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

Tuesday, March 25, 2014  
9:00 a.m.



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, 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 provide written 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill No. 2031.

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

March 21, 2014

TO:

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

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

**LETTER OF SUPPORT**

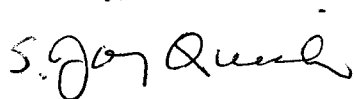
Senator Ige, Chair, Senator Kidani, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, my name is Joy Quick. I am a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 2031 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists.

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

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**Cc:** [parksg@hawaii.edu](mailto:parksg@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2031 on Mar 25, 2014 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Sunday, March 23, 2014 4:58:13 AM

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**HB2031**

Submitted on: 3/23/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Genevieve Parks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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