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

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

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

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

**COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL NO. 2466, 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"), Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments in support of Senate Bill No. 2466.

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 therapist (“MFT”) in the State of Hawaii. As such, after a series of discussions 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 MFTs maintain their professional competency and keep abreast of the latest developments in their profession. Currently in Hawaii, there are 324 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 submit written comments in support of Senate Bill No. 2466.

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

February 11, 2014

TO:

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

RE: SB 2466 Relating to Continuing Education for Marriage and Family Therapists

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Senator Ige, Chair, Senator Kidani, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, my name is Joy Quick. I am a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support SB2466 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 SB 2466. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



S. Joy Quick

HB2031 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

Companion Bill: SB2466

To the Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kawakami and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to provide information to this committee. The measure HB2031 proposes Continuing Education (CE) for Marriage and Family Therapists. I support the intent of this bill, and the companion Senate bill to ensure that Marriage and Family Therapists are current on their training in providing essential services. This measure is an assurance to the community that skills from these professionals are up to date. This bill has the opportunity to bring Hawai'i into substantial compliance with other professions providing essential services.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide information to the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

Douglas Kainoa Dang

Oahu Representative Hawai'i Association Marriage and Family Therapists (HAMFT)

Member Hawai'i Association Marriage and Family Therapists (HAMFT)