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SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
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**PRESENTATION OF THE  
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016

Monday, February 1, 2016  
2:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1629, RELATED TO LICENSED MARRIAGE AND  
FAMILY THERAPISTS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, 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”), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”). Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill No. 1629.

The Department and the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Hawaii Division (“AAMFT Hawaii”), had a discussion about the proposed bill and the Program is in support of House Bill No. 1629.

This change will align with essentially all of the other states that use the title of licensed marriage and family therapist (“LMFT”). Also, this will reduce any confusion about licensees who are LMFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states.

There are post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction between LMFTs and non-licensed marriage and family therapists, and may use the title inappropriately. Often times these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country. In addition, this will prevent any confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a LMFT and find only non-licensed marriage and family therapists in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1629.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

PRESENTATION OF  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

TWENTY-EIGHTH STATE LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION, 2016

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016  
2:00 P.M.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1629  
RELATED TO LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR,  
AND TO THE HONORABLE JUSTIN H. WOODSON, VICE CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on House Bill No.1629, Related to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. My name is Daria Loy-Goto and I am the Complaints and Enforcement Officer for the Department's Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO"). RICO offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1629 amends Chapter 451J, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), to add the word "licensed" before the term "marriage and family therapist". RICO defers to the Department's Marriage and Family Therapists

Program on the purpose and intent of the bill, but offers the following enforcement-related comments on Sections 4 to 10 of the bill as they relate to Chapter 451J, HRS.

Currently, Chapter 451J, HRS, prohibits the use of the title "marriage and family therapist" by any person who does not possess a marriage and family therapist license. Accordingly, RICO is authorized to pursue action against any individual who uses the title without first obtaining a marriage and family therapist license.

As currently drafted, however, House Bill No. 1629 would narrow RICO's enforcement authority. Under the bill, RICO would only be able to enforce Chapter 451J, HRS, in situations where a person uses the title "licensed marriage and family therapist" without having the appropriate license. RICO would be unable to take any action against a person who uses the title "marriage and family therapist" when such person does not possess a license.

In reviewing Sections 4 to 10 of the bill, RICO believes that all insertions of the word "licensed" are problematic from an enforcement perspective, except on page 12, line 5, and on page 15, line 3. RICO is willing to work with the Marriage and Family Therapists Program and professional associations on any amendments to the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1629. I will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,  
I support HB1629 and agree that this bill will reduce ambiguity and improve the interpretation of care and patient safety. This bill will benefit from amending Section 431(a)(4) by including Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists in Substance Abuse assessments. Mahalo for your time.

Douglas Kainoa Dang

President

Hawaii Association For Marriage and Family Therapist  
(HAMFT)



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January 30, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Rhesa R. Kaulia, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist  
President, Grace Works, LLC

RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - SUPPORT

February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, I am Rhesa R. Kaulia. I am a Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons:

- **Consumer Protection:** Adding “Licensed” to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii.
- This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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Email: [graceworkslc@icloud.com](mailto:graceworkslc@icloud.com)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 7:48 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1629 on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM\*

**HB1629**

Submitted on: 1/27/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 2:59 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: janetcovingtoncounseling@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1629 on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM\*

**HB1629**

Submitted on: 1/28/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Covington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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January 28, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: S. Joy Quick, MA, MFT, CSAC; AAMFT Hawaii Division Past President; MFT  
Faculty at Argosy University Hawaii

RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, I am Joy Quick. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons:

- Consumer Protection: Adding “Licensed” to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii.
- This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

January 28, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Denby Toci, Pre-Clinical MFT

RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, I am Denby Toci. I am a Hawaii Pre Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons:

- Consumer Protection: Adding “Licensed” to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii.
- This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 9:56 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: ltm@aloha.net  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1629 on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM  
Attachments: ~\$pport for HB 1629.doc

**HB1629**

Submitted on: 1/29/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luther Matsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: January 30, 2016 TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce FROM: Luther Matsen, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - SUPPORT February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325 Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, I am Luther Matsen. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons: • Consumer Protection: Adding “Licensed” to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii. • This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin. • Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here. • Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country. I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Sincerely, Luther T. Matsen, Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

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January 28, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Mark Matsushita AAMFT Hawaii President Elect

RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, I am Mark Matsushita a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons:

- Consumer Protection: Adding “Licensed” to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii.
- This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2016 6:58 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: Zpetersonz.peterson30@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1629 on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM\*

**HB1629**

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments:

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January 30, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Cynthia Albers  
RR 2, Box 6256  
Pahoa, HI 96778  
808-965-0188; cdahawaii@gmail.com

RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists for the following reasons:

- Consumer Protection: Adding “Licensed” to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii.
- This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

January 29, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: **Jacy L. Campbell, MFT, CSAC, SAP**

RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, I am Jacy L. Campbell. I am a **Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist** and I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons:

- Consumer Protection: Adding “Licensed” to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii.
- This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



January 30, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Michael Macias, BA

RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, I am Michael Macias. I am a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in Marriage and Family Counseling, and I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons:

- Consumer Protection: Adding "Licensed" to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii.
- This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin.
- Adding "Licensed" to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here.
- Adding "Licensed" to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

January 30,2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Britt Young, LMFT

RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, I am Britt Young, and I'm an Illinois licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who has recently moved to Hawaii. I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this resolution for the following reason: As a licensed therapist in Illinois, who has recently moved to Hawaii, I understand the importance of using the term, licensed, before the MFT designation. In other states, there is a distinct difference between LMFTs and MFTs, with the former being formally licensed by the state, and, therefore, able to prove he/she has satisfied all the requirements set forth in the licensure documentation.

By contrast, anyone who has completed a degree as a Marriage and Family Therapist may use the term, MFT. However, it's important to note that, if a therapist has not fulfilled all the requirements set forth in the licensure documentation, he/she may be considered less experienced and qualified to be a therapist.

In the end, it's the consumer who needs to be considered. If someone is seeking therapy, he/she should be guaranteed a licensed therapist if that's what is desired. If only an MFT designation is required, the consumer may not know what kind of experience his/her therapist has. Instead, if an LMFT designation is offered, the consumer knows that this therapist has completed the necessary requirements.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 7:38 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: deepa\_ram.souza@yahoo.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1629 on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM  
Attachments: LMFT Bill, VRS.doc

**HB1629**

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vishwani Ram-SOUza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: January 30, 2016 TO:Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce FROM: Vishwani Ram-Souza, MA, MFT RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - SUPPORT February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325 Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, I am Vishwani Ram-Souza. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons: • Consumer Protection: Adding “Licensed” to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii. • This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin. • Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here. • Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country. I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify

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January 31, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Vishwani Ram-Souza, MA, MFT

RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - SUPPORT

February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, I am Vishwani Ram-Souza. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons:

- Consumer Protection: Adding "Licensed" to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii.
- This change would align the legal title for Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states (except for Wisconsin).
- Adding "Licensed" to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here.
- Adding "Licensed" to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country.

January 31, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Dr. Lorraine Freedle, Clinical Director, Pacific Quest

RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, I urge you to support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists for the following reasons:

- Consumer Protection: Adding “Licensed” to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii.
- This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 8:42 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: gettmancare@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1629 on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM

**HB1629**

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher Gettman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill. As a newly licensed MFT, I am very proud of the "L" - it cost me (and my family) much time, money (\$5000 over 4 years) of additional training/supervision/classes and has made me a much better service provider to our needy community. This bill continues to support our common effort. The "L" is a hard earned badge we licensed MFTs should proudly wear - it allows our community, consumers and professionals alike to differentiate among us who is more qualified. Our the stringent licensing process allows us to gr ow as better providers. Let's continue to bring much needed mental health to our community and MFTs are the best at it because we are trained to embrace working with not only individuals but families - the fabric of our communities. We MFTs have the potential to bring more tools/resources to a greater amount of people. Mahalo for your consideration. Christopher Gettman MA MFT Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist  
[www.selfhelphawaii.com](http://www.selfhelphawaii.com)

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 9:15 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: suzanne@pacificquest.org  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1629 on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM\*

**HB1629**

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
suzanne mckinney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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January 31, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Stephanie Daniels, MFTI

RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, I am Stephanie Daniels. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons:

- Consumer Protection: Adding “Licensed” to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii.
- This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here.
- Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 6:20 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: hkoop@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1629 on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM  
Attachments: scan0013.jpg

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

**HB1629**

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Heidemarie Koop	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

**Virginia Jones**  
444 Auwina Place, Kailua, Hi 96734-3424  
[mytherapistvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:mytherapistvirginia@gmail.com)  
808-226-3436

January 31, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Virginia Jones, MA, MFT, LMHC, NCC, CSAC, SAP  
AAMFT Approved Supervisor  
Doctoral Candidate

RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - SUPPORT

February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce: My name is Virginia Jones. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons:

- Adding "Licensed" to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. As a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist working for the Federal Government, I have had to formally adopt LMFT as my credential as MFT is not recognized in the federal system as a Licensed Independent Provider.
- Consumer Protection: Adding "Licensed" to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii.
- This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin.
- Adding "Licensed" to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

woodson2-Shingai

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 9:54 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: skanakaolewong@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1629 on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM  
Attachments: HB1629

**HB1629**

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Serrylee Kanakaole-Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

woodson2-Shingai

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 11:05 PM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: 221elite@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1629 on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM

**HB1629**

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 1, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helen P Bressler	Individual	Support	No

Comments: January 28, 2016 TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce FROM: Helen P Bressler MSCP, CSAC, EFT-CAP, CPC, RN Counselor RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - SUPPORT February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325 Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, I am \_\_Your Name\_\_\_\_\_. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons: • Consumer Protection: Adding “Licensed” to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii. • This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin. • Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here. • Adding “Licensed” to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country. I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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**LATE**

SUSAN J. RAY, MFT  
Windward Therapy, LLC  
970 N. Kalaleo Ave; Suite A-212, Kailua, HI 96734  
Phone: (808) 227-6791 Fax: (808) 744-8322  
Email: [susanray@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:susanray@hawaii.rr.com)  
Website: [www.windwardtherapy.com](http://www.windwardtherapy.com)

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January 28, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Susan Ray, MFT

RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, I am Susan Ray. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist since 2004 and I strongly support HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons:

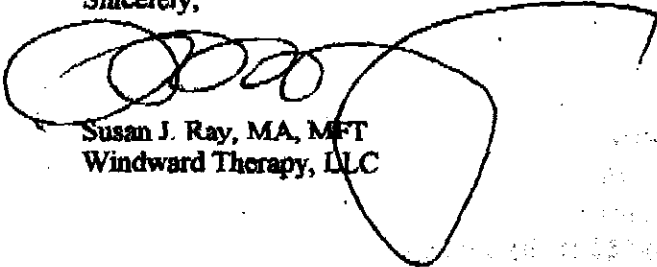
- Consumer Protection: Adding "Licensed" to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii.
- This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin. Without the "L" other states or insurance companies in another state get confused and think we are not licensed. This happens often when recertifying with insurance companies, especially mainland ones, which we are needing to do more and more of since the Obama Care law.
- Adding "Licensed" to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here.

**SUSAN J. RAY, MFT**  
**Windward Therapy, LLC**  
 970 N. Kalaheo Ave; Suite A-212, Kailua, HI 96734  
 Phone: (808) 227-6791 Fax: (808) 744-8322  
 Email: [susanray@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:susanray@hawaii.rr.com)  
 Website: [www.windwardtherapy.com](http://www.windwardtherapy.com)

- Adding "Licensed" to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Susan J. Ray, MA, MFT  
 Windward Therapy, LLC

*[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*

# LATE TESTIMONY

## LATE TESTIMONY

January 28, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

**LATE**

FROM: Steven P. Katz  
Marriage and Family Therapist  
Hawaii License # 376  
152 N. Kalaheo Ave House F  
Kailua HI 96734

**LATE**

RE: HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

February 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair,  
and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

I am Steven Katz. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support  
HB 1629 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons:

- Consumer Protection: Adding "Licensed" to the Marriage and Family Therapist license statute will reduce confusion within the therapy seeking public who may be looking for a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and find only MFTs in Hawaii.
- This change would align the legal title for Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapists with the same distinction for licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFT) in all of the other states except for Wisconsin.
- Adding "Licensed" to the statute will reduce any confusion about therapists who are licensed MFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states. Without this change to our legal title, job opportunities can be affected when we are in competition with LMFTs from other states. These jobs are predominantly with active duty military, National Guard, and reserve personnel and their families. Some MFTs working for the Federal Government have informally adopted LMFT as their preferred credential, which is not currently recognized here.
- Adding "Licensed" to the statute will reduce confusion among post-graduate marriage and family therapy interns who often do not understand the legal distinction of MFT, and

*may utilize the title inappropriately. Often these graduates expect to become LMFTs once they are licensed, based on what they experienced in other parts of the country.*

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 1629. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.