



DAVID Y. IGE  
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  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR  
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
JUDICIARY

TWENTY-EIGHTH STATE LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION, 2016

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2016  
2:00 P.M.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2333 S.D.1  
RELATED TO LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

TO THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR,  
AND TO THE HONORABLE JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, VICE CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2333 S.D.1, 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 Sections 1 through 10 of the bill.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2333 S.D.1

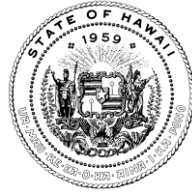
April 1, 2016

Page 2

Senate Bill No. 2333 S.D.1, in Sections 1 through 10, amends Chapter 451J, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), to add the phrase "or licensed marriage and family therapist" after "marriage and family therapist".

As originally drafted, the bill proposed amendments to Chapter 451J, HRS, which would have narrowed RICO's enforcement authority. Senate Bill No. 2333 S.D.1 addresses RICO's enforcement concerns with the addition of the phrase "or licensed marriage and family therapist". Accordingly, RICO does not have any objections to this measure as currently written.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2333 S.D.1. I will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.



DAVID Y. IGE  
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  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR  
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
JUDICIARY

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2016

Friday, April 1, 2016  
2:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2333, S.D. 1, RELATED TO LICENSED  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.**

TO THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, 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 present testimony on Senate Bill No. 2333, S.D. 1.

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 Senate Bill No. 2333, S.D. 1.

This change will align Hawaii’s law with essentially all of the other states that use the title “licensed marriage and family therapist” (“LMFT”). Also, the proposed revisions

in this bill will reduce confusion about the status of licensees who are LMFTs in Hawaii who have met the same standards as LMFTs in other states.

While the Program believes there may be benefits to this measure's proposed insertion of the term "licensed" before existing statutory references to the title "marriage and family therapists," the Program defers to the Regulated Industries Complaints Office regarding any enforcement-related concerns about these revisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2333, S.D. 1.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2016 6:24 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** bonni@living-lighthouse.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2333 on Apr 1, 2016 14:00PM\*

**SB2333**

Submitted on: 3/31/2016

Testimony for JUD on Apr 1, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bonni Cardoza	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

March 31, 2016

TO: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Petra Wiesenbauer

RE: SB 2333 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

April 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Rhoads, Chair, Representative San Buenaventura, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, my name is Petra Wiesenbauer. I am currently working on my MA for Marriage and Family Therapy with Argosy University in Hilo and I am planning to seek licensure after receiving my degree and meeting all the requirements necessary. I strongly support SB 2333, SD1 (SSCR 2492) Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill with the amendment for the following reasons:

- As RICO points out in the amendment, both titles 1) Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and 2) Marriage and Family Therapist should be legally protected and used only by individuals who have fully met the license requirements.
- 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 SB 2333, SD 1 (SSCR 2492). Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



March 31,2016

TO: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Steven P. Katz. MFT

RE: SB 2333 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

April 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Rhoads, Chair, Representative San Buenaventura, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am Steven Katz. I am a Marriage and Family Therapist, with Hawaii license #376 and I strongly support SB 2333, SD1 (SSCR 2492) Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill with the amendment for the following reasons:

- As RICO points out in the amendment, both titles 1) Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and 2) Marriage and Family Therapist should be legally protected and used only by individuals who have fully met the license requirements.
- 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 SB 2333, SD 1 (SSCR 2492). Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2016 11:52 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** janetcovingtoncounseling@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2333 on Apr 1, 2016 14:00PM\*

**SB2333**

Submitted on: 3/30/2016

Testimony for JUD on Apr 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:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

March 31, 2016

TO: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Hieu Pham Stuart, MA. Marriage & Family Therapy

RE: SB 2333 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

April 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Rhoads, Chair, Representative San Buenaventura, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am Hieu Pham Stuart. I am a in the process to get Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support SB 2333, SD1 (SSCR 2492) Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill with the amendment for the following reasons:

- As RICO points out in the amendment, both titles 1) Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and 2) Marriage and Family Therapist should be legally protected and used only by individuals who have fully met the license requirements.
- 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 SB 2333, SD 1 (SSCR 2492). Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

March 31, 2016

TO: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Alan Tamai

RE: SB 2333 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

April 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Rhoads, Chair, Representative San Buenaventura, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am Alan Tamai. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support SB 2333, SD1 (SSCR 2492) Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill with the amendment for the following reasons:

- As RICO points out in the amendment, both titles 1) Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and 2) Marriage and Family Therapist should be legally protected and used only by individuals who have fully met the license requirements.
- 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 SB 2333, SD 1 (SSCR 2492). Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Alan Tamai

March 31, 2016

TO: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Cynthia Carlton-Jarmon, MFT

RE: SB 2333 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

April 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Rhoads, Chair, Representative San Buenaventura, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am Cynthia Carlton-Jarmon. I am a **Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist** and I strongly support SB 2333, SD1 (SSCR 2492) Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill with the amendment for the following reasons:

- As RICO points out in the amendment, both titles 1) Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and 2) Marriage and Family Therapist should be legally protected and used only by individuals who have fully met the license requirements.
- 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 SB 2333, SD 1 (SSCR 2492). Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cynthia Carlton-Jarmon, MFT  
Retired/USArmy



March 31, 2016

TO: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Dr. Kirsten J. Tyson, MFT

RE: SB 2333 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

April 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Rhoads, Chair, Representative San Buenaventura, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am Kirsten J. Tyson, Ph.D., MFT. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support SB 2333, SD1 (SSCR 2492) Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill with the amendment for the following reasons:

- As RICO points out in the amendment, both titles 1) Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and 2) Marriage and Family Therapist should be legally protected and used only by individuals who have fully met the license requirements.
- 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 SB 2333, SD 1 (SSCR 2492). Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

March 31, 2016

TO: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Dayle-ann Lee-Roche

RE: SB 2333 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

April 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Rhoads, Chair, Representative San Buenaventura, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am Dayle-ann Lee-Roche. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support SB 2333, SD1 (SSCR 2492) Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill with the amendment for the following reasons:

- As RICO points out in the amendment, both titles 1) Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and 2) Marriage and Family Therapist should be legally protected and used only by individuals who have fully met the license requirements.
- 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 SB 2333, SD 1 (SSCR 2492). Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

March 31, 2016

TO: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kelly Donovan

RE: SB 2333 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

April 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Rhoads, Chair, Representative San Buenaventura, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am Kelly Donovan. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support SB 2333, SD1 (SSCR 2492) Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill with the amendment for the following reasons:

- As RICO points out in the amendment, both titles 1) Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and 2) Marriage and Family Therapist should be legally protected and used only by individuals who have fully met the license requirements.
- 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 SB 2333, SD 1 (SSCR 2492). Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

March 31, 2016

TO: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair

Members of the Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Britt Young, LMFT

RE: SB 2333 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists--**SUPPORT**

April 1, 2016 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 325

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair, Representative Joy A. Buenaventura, Vice-Chair, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, my name is Britt Young, and I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Illinois and Hawaii. I strongly support SB 2333 (SSCR 2492) Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

As an LMFT in Illinois and an MFT in Hawaii, I support this bill because it would eliminate confusion in the mental health field regarding who is licensed and who is not. By having the "L" before the MFT here in Hawaii, we can better align with standards throughout the U.S. and allow our local therapists to compete for federal jobs, which often require the designation of LMFT.

Unfortunately, many employers don't understand that there is a distinct difference between a licensed marriage and family therapist and a marriage and family therapist who has not completed the licensing requirements. For those of us who have completed the rigorous licensing requirements, it's only fair that we have a way to distinguish ourselves from those who have not--or are in the process of doing so.

Having worked as a Marriage and Family Therapist in two states on the mainland, I can tell you that the "L" before the MFT is a big deal, and often makes the difference between getting a job and not getting a job. We need to be on the same page as other states, so our clients know exactly what kind of training we have.

In short, we licensed Marriage and Family Therapists have put in an extraordinary amount of work to get licensed here, and we should be able to show that to our clients without confusion. By adding an "L" to MFT, our clients will know exactly what they are getting.

I urge your consideration of SB 2333, SD1 (SSCR 2492). Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

March 31, 2016

TO: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Michael Macias

RE: SB 2333 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

April 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Rhoads, Chair, Representative San Buenaventura, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am Michael Macias. I am a MSCP student and I strongly support SB 2333, SD1 (SSCR 2492) Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill with the amendment for the following reasons:

- As RICO points out in the amendment, both titles 1) Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and 2) Marriage and Family Therapist should be legally protected and used only by individuals who have fully met the license requirements.
- 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 SB 2333, SD 1 (SSCR 2492). Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**LATE**

March 31, 2016

TO: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Dr. John G. Souza, Jr., D.MFT, LMFT (MN & HI)

RE: SB 2333 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists - **SUPPORT**

April 1, 2016 2:00pm Conference Room 325

Representative Rhoads, Chair, Representative San Buenaventura, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, my name is John Souza. I am licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist in Hawai'i and I strongly support SB 2333, SD1 (SSCR 2492) Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

I strongly support this bill with the amendment for the following reasons:

- As RICO points out in the amendment, both titles 1) Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and 2) Marriage and Family Therapist should be legally protected and used only by individuals who have fully met the license requirements.
- 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 SB 2333, SD 1 (SSCR 2492). Thank you for this opportunity to testify.