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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Thursday, January 30, 2020
2:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 2319, RELATING TO MIXED MARTIAL ARTS**

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Charlene Tamanaha, and I am the Licensing Administrator of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. The Department supports this administration bill.

The purpose of this bill is to allow mixed martial arts promoters to pay fighters with cash.

Currently, Hawaii Revised Statutes section 440E-7(a)(4) requires that promoters pay fighters with either cashier's or certified checks. However, almost every event involves last-minute changes to the fight card due to a fighter not making weight or getting injured during training. The fighter's weigh-in takes place the day before the event, and most of the events are held on a Saturday. As a result, it is very difficult for the promoter to get new checks issued on a Saturday because most financial institutions are closed. If cash is allowed as another form of payment, it will be easier to make changes to the fighter's compensation. In addition, this bill will help the

Department's Mixed Martial Arts Program become more efficient by tailoring the requirements of HRS chapter 440E to the realities of the event process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we respectfully ask the Committee to pass this administration bill.