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**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Tuesday, March 16, 2021  
2:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 1102, RELATING TO MIXED MARTIAL ARTS**

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alan Taniguchi, and I am the Executive Officer of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Mixed Martial Arts Program. 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 (HRS) section 440E-7(a)(4) requires that mixed martial arts 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 occurs 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.

By allowing cash as another form of payment, this bill will make it easier for promoters to make changes to the fight card and will tailor 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.