

LATE

SB-1027

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:35:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/9/2023 9:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Walter Carvalho	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Committee, I am submitting testimony in support of SB1027 with recommended amendments. Hawaii needs a real combat sports commission with dedicated funding to attract the UFC to host fights in Hawaii. I support the measures intent to create a combat sports commission for the purposes of attracting the UFC, ONE FC, and several other Professional events to Hawaii however; I would like to offer the following amendments to the structure of the commission:

1. The DCCA should only be administratively attached to the combat sports commission for the purposes of the supporting the commission financially and helping the commission with its accounting needs. They will handle all incoming money's from all events and provide the support that the Commission needs to move forward in providing all rules and safe measures to help each event be successful.
2. The DCCA is not experienced in operating and facilitating and combat sports commission, therefore the DCCA should not have influence over the makeup of the commission and its members. All members of this commission should have an extent background in Martial arts there are many qualified people for these positions.
3. DCCA has tried to provide the help we needed thus far but many things have fallen through the cracks therefore stopping the bigger events from coming to Hawaii.
4. I have traveled the world working at all the biggest Mixed Martial events and have been licensed in every state and country I have worked in and can see why these World Class events do not want to come to Hawaii. With this new commission I think we can truly turn this around

I would like to thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Walt Carvalho



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Thursday, February 9, 2023
9:31 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1027, RELATING TO COMBAT SPORTS**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department). The Department opposes this bill which establishes a Combat Sports Commission (Commission).

The purposes of this bill are to (1) establish a State Commission; (2) provide for regulation of combat sports; (3) prohibit no rules combat or similar contests; and (4) appropriate funds for an unspecified number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions within the Department's Commission.

The Department appreciates the Legislature's consideration of much needed FTEs provided in this bill for the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (Division); however, the Department opposes this measure because the creation of a Commission is unnecessary because, currently, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 440E establishes the Mixed Martial Arts Program (Program) under the auspices of the Director of the Department as recommended in the Sunrise Analysis completed by the

State Auditor in 2007. ([Sunrise Analysis: Mixed Martial Arts, Report No. 07-02, February 2007](#)). This was done to streamline its administration, increase accountability, and to ensure efficiency. Any problems or issues could be brought directly to the Director without having to wait for a scheduled commission meeting. Most importantly, HRS chapter 440E includes the appropriate safeguards for contestants and prohibits “no rules” combat pursuant to HRS section 440E-23.

In contrast, the creation of a commission would significantly lengthen the licensing process and consequently, jeopardize scheduled events. For example, the requirement that the Commission approve all contestants is impractical as there are often many contestant changes throughout the lead up and even in the days immediately prior to an event. The event would potentially have to be canceled, due to Sunshine Law requirements that the Commission would be subject to. If the intent of this measure is to ensure expertise is provided in relation to mixed martial arts regulation, the Director is authorized by law to appoint an advisory committee.

If the Committee is inclined to move forward with the creation of a Commission as proposed, the Department notes that moving forward with creating a Commission would be a logistically significant undertaking and thus, in consultation with the Division respectfully requests, at a minimum, a delayed implementation of at least two (2) years to ensure that:

- a) In line with the request above, the Division would need the appropriate time to establish, recruit, and hire the full-time position employees to facilitate such a Commission.
- b) The appropriate updates are made to the Division’s database;
- c) The Governor has the appropriate time to appoint members to the Commission;
and
- d) Ensure there is no disruption in planned events.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.