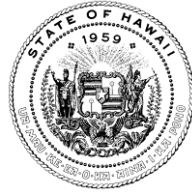


# SB2333

Measure Title:	RELATED TO LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.
Report Title:	Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Professionals
Description:	Amends numerous Hawaii Revised Statutes sections to add the word "licensed" before the term "marriage and family therapist" to clarify those sections.
Companion:	<a href="#">HB1629</a>
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH
Introducer(s):	BAKER, ENGLISH, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI, RUDERMAN, Espero, Gabbard, Ihara, Nishihara, Taniguchi



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

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JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2016

Wednesday, February 17, 2016  
9:00 a.m.

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

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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.

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.

This change will align with essentially all of the other states that use the title 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.

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 therapist," benefits which include reducing confusion amongst the public or inappropriate use or representation of titles by non-licensed members of the marriage and family therapy community, the Program also recognizes that there may be enforcement concerns related to these particular proposed amendments. As such, the Program would defer to the Regulated Industries Complaints Office regarding such concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2333.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH STATE LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION, 2016

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016  
9:00 A.M.

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

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,  
AND TO THE HONORABLE MICHELLE N. KIDANI, 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, 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.

Senate Bill No. 2333 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, Senate Bill No. 2333 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, the professional associations, and the Committee on any amendments to the bill.

RICO notes that the House Draft 1 version for this bill's companion measure, House Bill No. 1629, adds "or licensed marriage and family therapist" to existing "marriage and family therapist" in Sections 3 through 8 and RICO believes this approach addresses its enforcement concerns.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2333

February 17, 2016

Page 3

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2333. I will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

February 15, 2016

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

FROM: S. Joy Quick, MA, MFT

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

February 17, 2016 9:00am Conference Room 229

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health, I am Joy Quick. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support SB 2333 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 SB 2333. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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February 15, 2016

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

FROM: Rhesa R. Kaulia, MC/MFT, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

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

February 17, 2016 9:00am Conference Room 229

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health, I am **Rhesa R. Kaulia**. I am a **Hawaii Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist** and I strongly support SB 2333 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 SB 2333. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



February 15, 2016

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

FROM: Anthony Choe, MSCP

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

February 17, 2016 9:00am Conference Room 229

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health, I am Anthony Choe. I am a Masters level graduate working towards my Marriage and Family license in Hawaii and I strongly support SB 2333 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 SB 2333. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB 2333. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

- 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 county.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons:

My name is Cynthia Carlton-Jarmon. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support SB 2333 Relating to Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health.

February 17, 2016 9:00am Conference Room 229

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

FROM: Cynthia Carlton-Jarmon, MFT

Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

February 15, 2016

Cynthia Carlton-Jarmon, MFT  
3608 Diamond Head Circle  
Honolulu, HI 96815  
197 Sand Island Access Road, Suite #201  
Honolulu, HI 96819

February 15, 2016

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

FROM: Dawn Baxter, MS, LMFT, CSAC

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

February 17, 2016 9:00am Conference Room 229

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health, I am \_\_Your Name\_\_\_\_\_. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support SB 2333 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 SB 2333. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [janetcovingtoncounseling@gmail.com](mailto:janetcovingtoncounseling@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2333 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, February 15, 2016 7:24:14 PM

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**SB2333**

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<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.

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February 15, 2016

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

FROM: Michelle Lee, MFT

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

February 17, 2016 9:00am Conference Room 229

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health, I am Michelle Lee. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support SB 2333 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 SB 2333. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

February 16, 2016

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

FROM: Virginia Jones, MA, MFT, LMHC, NCC, CSAC, SAP

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

February 17, 2016 9:00am Conference Room 229

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health: My name is Virginia Jones. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support SB 2333 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 marriage and family therapist working for the Federal Government, lucky to have a good job at Tripler Army Medical Center, I have had to adopt my Hawaii MFT credential to LMFT in order to be recognized within the federal system as MFT is NOT RECOGNIZED at the FEDERAL LEVEL.**
- 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 SB 2333. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.