

Support of Licensure of Massage Therapists
House Government Operations Committee
Laura Lynn Giubardo, Massage Therapist - January 28, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of licensure of massage therapists. I have been licensed in the state of Hawaii since 1981.

I am here today to testify in support of **licensure** of both massage therapists **and** massage therapy establishments.

I have training in Hawaiian Lomi Lomi, sports massage (with world class Teachers because Kona hosts Thee Ironman Triathlon), Swedish, Esalen, Hot stone (pohaku). Lymphatic drainage etc. I moved to Vermont in 2014 and was shocked to learn that there were NO requirements for opening a massage business! None! Anyone with absolutely no training can hang a sign and say they do it. They can open an establishment without proper hygiene requirements being met.

Having practiced massage, after being appropriately educated and trained, I can tell you that it is totally absurd and incomprehensible to me that Vermont, unlike the 45 other states in the nation, does not believe that massage therapists need to be licensed. It is 100% a public safety issue – for the health and wellbeing of clients, as well as the protection of the public against illicit activity at establishments that hold themselves out as massage therapy establishments.

Registration has been just taking my money and giving me nothing in return. The public now assume that massage therapists are qualified, vetted because they can post a piece of paper from the state just for applying! This is craziness!

As an analogy, I know that when a licensed plumber comes into my home, I feel personally safe having a man (it is often a man) come into my home whom I do not know. Why do I feel safe? Because I know that he is licensed. I know that he is qualified to do a competent job, and I know that he will be held accountable if he engages in unethical behavior.

Finally, I ask that you listen to the vast majority of the members of our profession, as well as the vast majority of other states, and support licensure of massage therapists and establishments.

Thank you for your consideration.

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