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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER ON SOCIAL WORK AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK.

1           WHEREAS, social work is a vital component of the social  
2 welfare system in Hawaii and the nation, providing critical  
3 intervention with issues related to social function faced by  
4 individuals, families, communities, and organizations; and  
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6           WHEREAS, the vitality and well-being of the entire State of  
7 Hawaii is intrinsically linked to the strength of its social  
8 work profession; and  
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10           WHEREAS, the complexity of social issues is constantly  
11 increasing, necessitating more, better, and ongoing training of  
12 social work professionals; and  
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14           WHEREAS, Hawaii has been plagued by a perennial shortage of  
15 social workers, resulting in drastic measures such as the  
16 decertification of social work positions in the Department of  
17 Human Services in 2005; and  
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19           WHEREAS, both the social work community and decision-makers  
20 in the state have had to operate in a virtual vacuum because of  
21 a serious dearth of meaningful data in areas such as workforce  
22 status and needs, program and practice effectiveness, capacity  
23 building, and social policy development; and  
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25           WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Social  
26 Work (UHM-SSW) is in the unique position of being able to  
27 perform high-level research and establish collaborative programs  
28 with community organizations to promote evidence-based and  
29 culturally appropriate intervention strategies; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 2 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 3 Session of 2008, that this body supports the establishment of a  
 4 Center on Social Work (Center) at UHM-SSW; and

5  
 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and  
 7 Consumer Affairs (DCCA) is requested to work with UHM-SSW and  
 8 the Hawaii Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
 9 (NASW) to explore the implementation of a surcharge attached to  
 10 social work licensing fees to provide partial funding for the  
 11 Center; and

12  
 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DCCA is requested to submit a  
 14 report on the progress on this issue to the Legislature no later  
 15 than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
 16 2009; and

17  
 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 19 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and  
 20 Consumer Affairs, Director of Human Services, Dean of UHM-SSW,  
 21 and President of the Hawaii Chapter of NASW.

OFFERED BY:

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