

March 12, 2008

Hearing Thurs. 3/13  
2:00 pm, rm 309  
5 copies to rm 435

TO: Representative Jerry Chang, Chair  
And members of the House Higher Education Committee

FROM: Sharon Otagaki, LSW; ACSW

RE: HCR 163 Supporting The Establishment Of A Center On Social Work At  
The University Of Hawaii At Manoa School Of Social Work

Chair Chang and members of the House Higher Education Committee, I am Sharon Otagaki, a licensed social worker and active member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). I have served as Vice President, President for two terms, Chair of the Legislative Committee for five years, and am the Chair of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee with NASW Hawaii Chapter. Currently I am also serving as a Regional Representative on the NASW National Board. Prior to my retirement, I worked as the Assistant to the Dean at the School of Social Work, UH Manoa.

I am providing testimony in strong opposition of HCR 163. Foremost is the absence of any communication with the School of Social Work on the establishment of a Center of Social Work. The National Office of NASW already has a Work Force Center which carries out research activities and identifies trends relative to social work practice, work environment, employment, and salaries. Our Hawaii Chapter is planning an expansion of this Center to focus on trends and issues in our State. We need to collaborate with the School of Social Work on duplicity and whether placement of a Center would be appropriate at the School of Social Work or in the community where social workers practice.

Secondly, as a licensed social worker, I oppose a surcharge attached to the social work licensing fee. I remain unconvinced that fees should increase to support a Center at the School of Social Work. Our licensing statute is not mandatory and those social workers working for city or state governments are exempt from licensing requirements as are faculty at the School of Social Work. Since there are large groups of practicing social workers who are not licensed, the burden of support for this Center would fall on social workers in private practice, private agencies, and those in government or are retired who choose to be licensed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

## HEDtestimony

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**From:** Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2008 3:12 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Joe Bertram III  
**Subject:** HCR163; HED; 3/13; 2PM; Rm 309

**Importance:** High

**Attachments:** Card for Joel Fischer <jfischer@hawaii.edu>



jfischer.vcf (343 B)

HCR163; Supporting the Establishment  
HED, Chair, Rep Chang; Vice Chair, Rep Bertram

PLEASE KILL THIS RESO. IT IS SCANDALOUS!

I have been a faculty member in the School of Social Work for almost 40 years. I am the senior faculty there. I also testify frequently in the legislature about social justice and other issues. I can tell you without ANY hesitation that this is one of the worst ideas I ever have seen introduced in the Legislature. It is a complete scam, and the faculty of the School and the social work community that this bill wants to tax were never even consulted about this reso! Can you imagine? Our own faculty completely undermined by keeping this reso secret!

Think of it: The National Association of Social Workers (NASW), named in the reso, was completely blind-sided by this reso. There was not even a hint to NASW that this reso was going to be introduced!

The professional community is up in arms like I never have seen before. The School already has almost no relationship with the professional community. This sneaky reso will destroy any good will that exists between the school and the NASW professional community.

The School has some 55 faculty. How is it possible that we aren't doing the kind of research this reso calls for? What are we doing if not that?

The School has its own Evaluation and Training Center. How is it possible that the Center isn't doing that type of research?

The School has another bill working its way through the legislature right now calling for funds for developing our Center on Aging. If the "Social Work Center" called for in the reso is so important, why isn't there a bill to appropriate funds the regular way?

With professional social workers so poorly paid as it is, how is it possible to even CONSIDER taxing them to pay for a center at the School that is not needed and will just be duplicating the work that we should be doing any way?

The UH School of Social Work SHOULD BE the real "Social Work Center." You probably can see from this terribly destructive reso why we are not.

Please do not support this awful proposal.

Thank you.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW  
President, 19-3, Democratic Party

Professor

University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work Henke Hall Honolulu, HI 96822

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."

Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."

Winston Churchill

## HEDtestimony

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**From:** Warren Aoki [aokiw001@hawaii.rr.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:40 PM

**To:** HEDtestimony

**Subject:** HCR 163/ HR 136

TO: Rep. Jerry Chang, Chair and members of the House Higher Education Committee  
FROM: Warren K. Aoki, LCSW  
RE: HCR 163/ HR 136 Supporting the Establishment of a Center on Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, School of Social Work  
POSITION- OPPOSED

I am opposed to this resolution on several counts. First, establishing a "Center on Social Work" may overlap with already existing entities within the School of Social Work, as well as in NASW. The approach taken to establish support for the proposed Center was not done in collaboration or consultation with NASW or, as far as I can tell, with other Schools of Social Work in the state. Second, exploring increasing Social Work licensing fees to partially fund the Center is totally unfair to licensed Social Workers, as not all Social Workers are required to hold a license.

**TO: Rep. Jerry Chang, Chair and members of the House  
Higher Education Committee**

**FROM: Roberta Williams, MSW, LSW, ACSW  
School Social Worker, Department of Education  
PO Box 1036, Hanapepe, HI 96716  
Email: bobbiewilli@gmail.com**

**RE: HCR 163/ HR 136 Supporting the Establishment of a  
Center on Social Work at the University of Hawaii at  
Manoa School of Social Work**

**Hearing Date: Thursday, March 13, 2:00 pm, Room 309**

**POSITION- OPPOSED**

Aloha, my name is Roberta Williams and I am a School Social Worker with the Department of Education. I am testifying in opposition to HCR 163/HR 136 which is proposing to establish a Center on Social Work at the University of Hawaii.

- I do not feel that the Legislature need establish a Center for Social Work as there are several entities already in existence that provide a very similar function. The following are three examples:
  1. the NASW already has a Center on Workforce Studies which 1) conduct studies of the current social work labor force as well as collect information from other sources in order to serve as a clearinghouse for educators, policy makers, social workers, and public and private work force planners; 2) enhance social work professional development through innovative training programs in emerging practice areas; and 3) disseminate timely information and resources on evidence-based practices.
  2. In addition, The University of Hawaii School of Social Work already has the Social Work Evaluation, Research and Training Unit (SWERTU) whose mission is "to meet the evaluation, research and training needs of programs in the state of Hawai'i that address social welfare issues.
  3. Another Center established by the UHM-SSW is called The Center for Training and Evaluation Research of the Pacific

(CTERP). This center is designed to advance the profession through research, evaluation, and training with a sustained commitment to the development, functioning and resilience of the people, communities, and agencies of Hawai'i and the Pacific, the nation, and the world.

While I firmly believe that research and evaluation are vital to the Social Work profession and to ensuring our continual commitment to addressing the needs of our community, establishing another research center may not be the best use of resources.

Having recently visited the School of Social Work at Manoa, I was appalled at the location of our School. The building in which the School of Social Work resides is condemned. I was told that the professors and support staff have been housed in these condemned buildings for 7 years. If we truly value our Social Workers and the School of Social Work, it would go a long way in showing support by providing our faculty and staff with decent office space rather than creating yet another center to do yet more research.

I am a State of Hawaii Government employee. As such, I am exempt from securing a Social Work license. I voluntarily got my license because I believe that it establishes a level of professionalism that builds respect and confidence for my profession. To suggest that we should fund this new Center for Social Work through the increase of licensing fees is not appropriate and somewhat discriminatory in that not all Social Workers are required to have a license.

As such, I am opposed to the passage of HCR 163/ HR 136 Supporting the Establishment of a Center on Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Social Work and ask that you reject the passage of HCR 163/HR 136.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Roberta Williams



HED Committee  
For hearing on Thurs, March 13, 2008  
2:00 pm  
Deliver 5 copies to Rm 311

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

March 11, 2008

TO: Rep. Jerry Chang, Chair  
And members of the House Higher Education Committee

FROM: Jeanette Matsumoto, President  
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

RE: HCR 163/ HR 136 Supporting the Establishment of a Center on Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Social Work- **OPPOSE**

Chair Chang and members of the House Higher Education Committee, I am Jeanette Matsumoto, President of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter. I am testifying in **OPPOSITION to HCR 163 and HR 136.**

NASW did not have the opportunity to discuss the establishment of a Center for Social Work with the UH School of Social Work and respectfully request that this resolution be held so we may engage in such a discussion.

Also, NASW is strongly opposed to any additional fee attached to our social work licensing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

March 12, 2008

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FROM: Sharon Otagaki, LSW; ACSW

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
REGARDING  
**OPPOSITION OF HCR 163 AND HR 136, SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER  
ON SOCIAL WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL  
WORK**

Thursday, March 13, 2008  
2:00 pm, Conference Room 309

Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Dr. Jon Matsuoka, I am the Dean of the UHM School of Social Work and I am testifying today in relation to HCR 163 and HR 136, regarding the establishment of a Center on Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Social Work.

First, I would like to thank Representative Chang and the other co-sponsors of these resolutions for their support of the School of Social Work and for the concept of a Center on Social Work. As stated in the resolutions, there has always been a serious dearth of meaningful data in this state in areas such as workforce status and needs in social services, program and practice effectiveness, capacity building, and social policy development. The kind of research that could be done through this center would be invaluable to the social work profession in Hawaii, to decision and policy makers, and to the community as a whole.

That said, the UHM School of Social Work has had some initial discussions on the matter with the Hawaii Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and it has been mutually agreed that we should continue the dialogue, with the possibility of expanding the scope of participants in that discussion. We are also in agreement that the mechanism for funding the Center on Social Work, as described in the resolutions, is not feasible at this time.

I would therefore request that HCR 163 and HR 136 be held in committee and not be passed on for further consideration.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider this matter.