



LATE TESTIMONY

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

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2008

Thursday, March 13, 2008  
2:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 136 and HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 163, SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER ON  
SOCIAL WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL  
WORK.**

TO THE HONORABLE JERRY L. CHANG, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Noe Noe Tom, Licensing Administrator with the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on H.R. 136 and H.C.R. 163, in response to which we must respectfully oppose being designated the lead as called for in the resolutions.

First, the resolutions designate the Department to work with the UHM-SSW and NASW to explore the implementation of a surcharge to attach to social worker licensing fees to provide partial funding for the proposed Social Work Center ("Center"). The

LATE TESTIMONY

Department's role in such a scenario would be at the back end, after the policy decision has been made that a surcharge is to be assessed, and after the UHM-SSW has developed an approved budget (that is to be supported by the surcharge on licensed social workers). The Department then would assist by doing the math to arrive at the surcharge amount per social worker licensee that would be sufficient to cover the Center's budget. However, the resolutions put us at the forefront to resolve the policy issues and become more involved than is appropriate for a licensing and regulatory agency. This is what we oppose. We would be happy to assist should calculation of a surcharge need to be done.

Secondly, perhaps because the resolutions designate the Department as the lead to bring parties together on this issue, we are also requested to provide a progress report to the 2009 Legislature. As we respectfully ask to be taken out of the lead position, we also request to be relieved of the reporting requirement.

Thank you for hearing our concerns and we ask your consideration to amend the resolutions so that the Department is not designated the lead or required to provide a report to the Legislature.



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

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LATE TESTIMONY

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State House of Representatives  
Committee on Higher Education

Testimony by  
HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO  
March 13, 2008

**H.C.R 163/H.R. 136 –SUPPORTING  
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
CENTER ON SOCIAL WORK AT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT  
MANOA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes H.C.R. 163 and H.R. 136. Both resolutions are premature, as there was no consultation with the Hawaii Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) prior to their introduction. We believe the NASW and the UHM School of Social Work could perform many of the functions of the proposed Center for Social Work without creating a new organization or imposing a licensure surcharge on social workers.

Another problem with the use of a surcharge on license fees as a possible source of funding for the Center is that there are many exemptions to social worker licensure. Therefore, any surcharge would affect a relatively small group of social workers. In the public sector, social worker licensure is not a requirement, and those who are licensed do not necessarily receive additional compensation. The licensure surcharge would impose an unfair burden on public sector social workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to H.C.R 163/H.R. 136.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura  
Deputy Executive Director

