

HEDtestimony

From: renee furuyama [rfuruyama@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 10:22 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: Rep. Joe Bertram III; Renee Furuyama
Subject: HR136, March 13, 2008, 2:00p.m., Rm 309

HR 136, Supporting the Establishment of a Center on Social Work HED; Chair, Rep. Chang

I OPPOSE THIS RESO

I am a licensed social worker and chair of the political action committee of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter (NASW). I am also a member of NASW's legislative committee.

I oppose the resolution for two reasons. The first reason is that NASW is a party named in the reso; however, NASW did not have any part in the planning or discussion of this reso. I only became aware of this reso on March 10. NASW did not have any knowledge of this reso prior to March 10. That means our legislative committee did not have a chance to discuss this matter. Our board did not have a chance to discuss this matter. More importantly, the membership, comprised mainly of licensed social workers, did not have a chance to vote on this matter which affects them directly! When the membership finds out that the legislature is entertaining this idea, they are going to be very upset.

The second reason I oppose this bill is that licensed social workers already pay high fees to maintain our licenses and membership in our professional organization. As legislators, you already know that social workers are underpaid and overworked for professionals with masters degrees. To add another fee is a slap in the face to all licensed social workers.

Therefore, I am asking you to kill this reso. However, if you are intent on funding the School of Social Work, do not do it on the backs of social workers. Please use state monies.

Mahalo,
Renee H. Furuyama, LSW, MURP

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HEDtestimony

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 3:27 PM
To: HEDTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov; Rep. Joe Bertram III
Subject: HR136; HED; 3/13; 2PM;Rm309

Importance: High

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



jfischer.vcf (343 B)

HR136, 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

Haunani Olds

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