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KEALI'I S. LOPEZ
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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN SERVICES

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2012

Thursday, March 22, 2012
10:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 146 AND HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 108, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, HAWAII CHAPTER, TO DEVELOP CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS.

TO THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, Executive Officer for the Social Workers Program ("Program"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on House Concurrent Resolution No. 146 and House Resolution No. 108.

The resolutions urge the Department and the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter ("NASW-HI") to work collaboratively on the issue of developing, implementing, and monitoring continuing education requirements for all licensed social workers in Hawaii. Furthermore, the Department and the NASW-HI are to submit to the Legislature at least twenty (20) days prior to the Regular Session of

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2013, a proposed draft for a bill to establish, implement, and monitor continuing education requirements for all social workers in Hawaii. The Department supports the efforts of the Legislature to allow the two agencies to work collaboratively on this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on House Concurrent Resolution No. 146 and House Resolution No. 108.



National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

March 21, 2012

TO: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair,
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
And Members of the House Health Committee
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair.
And members of the House Human Services Committee

FROM: Marty A. Oliphant, MSW
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

RE: HCR 146 and HR 108 Relating to Continuing Education Requirements for Licensed Social Workers

Chair Yamane and Chair Mizuno and members of the Health and Human Services Committees, I am Marty Oliphant, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawai'i Chapter. I am testifying in **SUPPORT of HCR 146 and HR 108 Relating to Continuing Education Requirements for Licensed Social Workers.**

The National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter (NASW), is working with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to develop Continuing Education Requirements for Licensed Social Workers in Hawai'i. We will continue to work with the DCCA with the intention to draft language for a legislative bill for the 2013 Legislative Session.

Continuing Education, in any profession, increases the knowledge base and the competency level of professionals. NASW views continuing education as an essential activity for ensuring quality social work services for clients. Social Workers are providing services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to an array of clients. Knowing the best practices and innovations in the field of social work will assist in protecting consumers in getting the best services as possible.

Hawai'i is 1 of 3 states that do not require Continuing Education for Social Workers. This Resolution will foster the work of the NASW and DCCA to bring about that change. As the Resolution states, NASW and DCCA are aware of relevant issues such as; 1) Ensuring that such requirements do not impose an undue burden on social work in rural areas of Hawai'i; 2) Using an established, widely recognized no-governmental entity to approve continuing education credits; and 3) Ensuring that the program to implement and monitor continuing education credits for licensed social workers is cost-neutral to the State. There are continuing education opportunities now for social workers and will continue to be available statewide, including rural areas, through in-person courses, webinars, and teleconferences.

We appreciate you exploring this need for Continuing Education relating the Licensed Social Workers. NASW is looking forward to our continued work with you and the DCCA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.