

Testimony for HUS 3/22/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR146

Conference room: 329

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Warren Aoki

Organization: National Association of Social Workers

E-mail: aokiw001@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 3/21/2012

Comments:

As President of the Hawaii Chapter of NASW, I strongly support this resolution and believe that it will enhance the professionalism of social workers in the state and ultimately benefit consumers of the critical services that social workers provide. In Hawaii, NASW represents more than 900 social workers throughout the State (and more than 145,000 members nationally) who are working everyday to bring positive change to the lives of the disadvantaged, the disenfranchised, families and children uprooted from their homes, soldiers and families facing multiple deployments and the rigors of transition back to civilian life, victims of violence struggling to regain stability, and the elderly in need of medical and social support. From the streets to rural communities to policy and law makers, social workers need to maintain up to date on the latest research, evidence-based practices, and policy issues. While not all licensed social workers are members of NASW, the NASW Code of Ethics is widely referred to by members and non-members alike, and is included as part of the instruction of most, if not all, social work degree programs. The NASW Code of Ethics (section 4.01 Competence) states:

(a) Social workers should accept responsibility or employment only on the basis of existing competence or the intention to acquire the necessary competence.

(b) Social workers should strive to become and remain proficient in professional practice and the performance of professional functions. Social workers should critically examine and keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to social work. Social workers should routinely review the professional literature and participate in continuing education relevant to social work practice and social work ethics.

(c) Social workers should base practice on recognized knowledge, including empirically based knowledge, relevant to social work and social work ethics.

This resolution directing the DCCA and NASW to work together compels our profession to hold all licensed social workers accountable to remain proficient in their areas of practice and to keep ethical conduct at the forefront of their decision-making processes. Thus, the end result will be better services and protection for consumers. Mahalo nui loa.

LATE testimony

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Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Dara Carlin, M.A.

Organization: Individual

E-mail: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com Submitted on: 3/21/2012

Comments:

Good Morning Representatives and my apologies for not being able to testify in-person about this very important piece of legislation.

Ongoing education and training for social workers is CRITICAL since they are often the first responders to crisis situations; they especially need training on the many issues tied to domestic violence.

When I obtained my Masters degree in Marriage & Family Therapy, I had been taught essentially NOTHING about domestic violence and child abuse. Considering that 1 out of every 4 women will experience DV sometime in their life, there is NO WAY anyone in the counseling profession cannot come across a DV victim or survivor sometime during their career, yet I was given a degree that officiated my "expertise" over subject matter I knew relatively nothing about (and quite truthfully, I'm STILL learning).

Social workers deal with life and death situations and directly impact lives every day - shouldn't they have the tools and training to be able to do such important work? Physicians deal with life and death situations and directly impact lives every day too but they HAVE to have ongoing annual training. Put another way, you probably wouldn't feel too good knowing that the last time your physician received any training was the year they graduated from medical school, right? Information in the field is constantly evolving the more we learn and social work is no different.

Please support this legislation to ensure that those on the frontline are properly trained to work with the population they've been entrusted with - our most vulnerable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Dara Carlin, M.A.

Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate

Rep. John M Mizuno, Chair
Committee on Human Services

HRC #146 (Support)

Hearing: Thursday, 03-22-12
10:30am Conference Room 329

Dear Committee on Human Services

My name is Rebecca Stotzer, and I am an Associate Professor and Director of Distance Education at the Myron B. Thompson school of Social Work at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, though I am writing as a resident of Hawaii. I am writing in support of HCR#146.

I am supporting HCR146 because ensuring an up-to-date and well trained workforce is a critical issue for consumer protection in the state. In a state with so many unique needs as the crossroads of the Pacific, the needs of Hawaii's citizens are constantly changing, and social service professionals need to be experts in that changing landscape. Given the various places in which social workers are placed throughout the state, the move to plan for continuing education requirements for social workers will help improve services across the entire social service sector in Hawaii.

In prior years, there were some stated concerns about the inability to offer trainings to rural and remote areas of the state as a cause for concern in adopting a continuing education mandate. This is less a concern now as technology has improved to the point where Hawaii Interactive Television and variety of web conferencing tools allow trainings to be broadcast statewide. The state has many institutions or agencies which can meet the demand for trainings, and can easily reach social workers throughout the state with cost effective web-based training tools. With the advent of these advanced technologies, and the collaboration needed among providers in the state who can develop and implement these trainings, I feel that this is a critical time to move forward in developing a plan to mandate continuing education for social workers. Thus, I support HRC146.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important resolution.

Rebecca Stotzer
House District 24

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LATE
Testimony

Conference room: 329
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Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Raelene Tenno
Organization: Westside Service Providers Network
E-mail: raetenno@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

Westside service Providers SUPPORT this bill and encourage the Human Services Committee to add an additional requirement for the Social Workers dealing in Child Welfare to have an additional 4 hours of continuing education as it pertains to changes in Federal Laws. Many of the Social Workers with DHS were not aware of the Fostering Connections Law which was signed into law on 10/7/2008 until a recent training end of 2011.
Thank you