

SCR142/SR78

Measure Title: 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.

Report Title: Continuing education requirement for licensed social workers in Hawaii

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s): GREEN (Introduced by request of another party), Chun Oakland, Nishihara

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
3/14/2012	S	Offered.
3/16/2012	S	Referred to CPN.
3/20/2012	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 03-28-12 9:15AM in conference room 229.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310

P.O. Box 541

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Phone Number: 586-2850

Fax Number: 586-2856

www.hawaii.gov/dcca

KEALI'I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2012

Wednesday, March 28, 2012
9:15 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 142 AND SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 78, 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 ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 142 and Senate Resolution No. 78.

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

Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 142
and Senate Resolution No. 78
Wednesday, March 28, 2012
Page 2

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 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 142 and Senate Resolution No. 78.



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MĀNOA

Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
SCR 142 & SR 78
Public Hearing
March 28, 2012
9:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Re: Support

My roles as distance education expansion and development coordinator, instructor and continuing education coordinator at The University of Hawaii, Manoa, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work have provided ample opportunities to review existing social work licensure requirements in other states.

SCR 142 & SR 78 Urge 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.

I am testifying in support of SCR & SR 78.

As the coordinator of continuing education I support licensure requirements to ensure consumer protection, as well as to ensure our graduates and other social workers within the state of Hawaii have access to courses delivering best practice criteria. UH MBT SSW welcomes the opportunity to support this measure and to solidify our intention of implementing additional course offering to strengthen current offering related to continuing education. We are committed to delivering continuing education options through various modalities, ensuring special attention to Hawaii relevant content, indigenous social work, rural social work and other issues connected to our diverse population.

We support the collaboration between the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii chapter and the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs as the resolution states, licensure is critical in increasing and maintaining the professional competence of licensed social workers in Hawaii through a continuing education program.

As the distance education expansion and development coordinator, instructor and continuing education coordinator at The University of Hawaii, Manoa, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, I reiterate support for SCR 142 and SR 78.

Theresa Kreif, MSW, LSW
University of Hawaii, Manoa
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work
Distance Education Expansion and Development Coordinator
Instructor/CEU Coordinator



National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

March 21, 2012

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
And Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

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

RE: SCR 142 and SR 78 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 SCR 142 and SR 78 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.

March 26, 2012

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brain T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

FROM: Lorraine C. Marais, MSW, Ed.D
55 S. Kukui Street Apt 1215,
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SUPPORT of SCR 142/SR 78: Relating to Continuing Education Requirements for Licensed Social Workers.

I am the treasurer of The National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter (NASW-HI) and I am in full support of SCR 142/SR 78.

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 to individuals, families, communities and organizations in the areas of prevention, intervention and capacity building. Knowledge of the best practices and innovations in the field of social work will assist in protecting consumers to receive state of the art and evidence-based services ensuring the highest quality of services available to them. The social well-being of our communities in HI will be greatly enhanced by approving Social Work CEUs.

I am aware, as stated in the resolution of specific issues with such a measure and therefore suggest the following:

- 1) Develop partnerships among non-governmental entities and social work educational institutions in HI to ensure access to both urban and rural social workers
- 2) Ensure cost effective opportunities without any additional cost to the state of Hawaii
- 3) Make available high quality continuing education opportunities for both rural and urban social workers through in-person and on-line courses, webinars, and teleconferences.

We appreciate your very timely support of the need for Continuing Education relating to Licensed Social Workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

SCR #142 (Support)

Hearing: Wednesday, March 28, 2012
9:15am Conference Room 229

Dear Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

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 SCR142.

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 SCR142.

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

Rebecca Stotzer
Senate District 24

Testimony for CPN 3/28/2012 9:15:00 AM SCR142

Conference room: 229

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

Urging the DCCA and the NASW Hawaii Chapter to develop continuing requirements for licensed social workers
SR78/SCR No.142
HCR No. 146

The following presents my personal testimony in SUPPORT of this bill. I am a 22 year veteran social worker having work experience in health care, geriatrics, and education. I am a private therapist and supervise social workers interested in obtaining LCSW licensure. I am also a nurse & nursing home administrator. I have met many social workers that desire continuing education but do not obtain it because it is not required. As our profession grows we are faced to deal with new complicated issues eg. Working with Hawaii's New Influx of Multi Cultures, Veterans and PTSD, Workplace, Home and School Violence, etc.. In order to provide the necessary care to these populations we must have an accountability tracking measure to ensure that social workers have taken the necessary steps to keep current and Continuing Education Credits allow for this.

The NASW supports CEU for the following reasons:

- The NASW Code of Ethics asserts that "*Social workers practice within their areas of competence and develop and enhance their professional expertise.*"
- "*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.*" NASW Code of Ethics
- New technologies and research findings come out regularly. CE will keep social workers current on best practices as well as policy and procedural changes that impact practice.
- It will ultimately serve to protect consumers of social work services against incompetent practice.
- Attendance in educational programs helps with networking which will enhance service collaboration.
- Required learning is better than no learning.

- If the CE is required, employers are more likely to pay for social workers to attend trainings/ seminars.
- NASW National Licensed Social worker survey results:
Respondents rated the adequacy of CE higher than their degree program in preparing them for their “role as a social worker.” This difference in adequacy was even higher for Social Workers working in mental health, child welfare, criminal justice, and aging.

Of course there may be cons to this bill, however, the pros far exceed them. I believe social workers need and want to be held accountable to our practice and CEUs will only make this happen. Mahalo.

Yvonne Duhaylongsod Yim LPN MSW LCSW DCSW NHA
Yvonne.run@gmail.com

Testimony for CPN 3/28/2012 9:15:00 AM SCR142

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Wailua Brandman APRN-Rx BC FAANP

Organization: Individual

E-mail: wailua@aya.yale.edu

Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate:

I am a Masters of Social Work candidate at the University of Hawaii, and a student member of the National Association of Social Workers. I have had the great fortune to travel and live across the globe during the course of my adult life, finally settling in this great state for the past 14 years. Three years ago, I chose to make a mid life career change, moving from information technology to social work in order to give back to the communities that have supported me over my career. I have come to see Hawaii as a great melting pot, filled with different cultures, which have unique perceptions as to their needs and beliefs.

Today you are hearing of a bill requiring the development of a continuing education credits plan for licensed social workers in the state. As you can see it the resolution's body, Hawaii is one of only three states that do not currently have post-licensing continuing education requirements. Given the diverse population that we service here in Hawaii, it is reprehensible that there is no requirement for learning different methodologies and techniques to apply with our different clients.

There are several core values rooted in the mission of social work. They include:

- Service
- Social justice
- Dignity and worth of the person
- Importance of human relationships
- Integrity, and
- Competence

Competence is the key core value driving the need for continuing education.

Ethically, social workers practice within their areas of competence and develop and enhance their professional expertise. Our code of ethics from the NASW states:

“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 social work. Social workers should routinely review the professional literature and participate in continuing education relevant to social work practice and social work ethics.” I believe that the practice of continuing education stimulates the day-to-day practice of social workers by exposing them to new ideas and techniques. It also keeps social worker skills sharp, avoiding obsolescence. We don't know what will be important in 10 years. We don't know what research will be published, what concepts will make a difference in our clients' lives. Continuing education is vital in providing services across our diverse population.

I support these resolutions, SR 78 and SCR 142, directing the DCCA and NASW to work together to develop requirements for continuing education. By keeping current, we will better serve our client population.