



LATE

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 Baker and Vice Chair Taniguchi and members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee, 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.

Chairperson Baker and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs:

My name is Dr. Noreen Mokuau, and I am writing today in support of SCR 142 and SR 78, two resolutions 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.

As the dean of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I am committed to the concept of life-long learning. This is a value that is especially important for professional social workers because theories and skills within the field are constantly changing and improving. In order to be as effective as we can be, professional social workers must keep abreast with the latest knowledge and technologies available.

Furthermore, it has been a common problem within the social work field that good practitioners are frequently promoted into supervisory and administrative positions with little to no appropriate training. The School of Social Work has therefore received many requests over the years to offer training in these areas in order to improve the efficiency and quality of social services provided through both the private and public sectors.

As a means of meeting the needs and demands of the professional social work community, the MBT School of Social Work has increased its credit and non-credit course offerings in recent years. In addition to expanding the range of topics being covered – from practice theories and methodologies to clinical supervision and program management, the School has also expanded the formats through which the trainings are being delivered. So, while many of the trainings are being done in the traditional, face to face, manner, we are increasingly expanding our distance education options which utilize two-way video and internet based technologies for course delivery. Should continuing education credits be required for licensed social workers, we at the MBT School of Social Work are confident that we will be able to provide the training opportunities necessary to workers in the entire state – including neighbor islands and rural areas of Oahu.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer these comments.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

SCR 142

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

9:15 AM

Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

My name is Brandon Kang and I have been working for the last five years in social services in Hawai'i. I am also currently attending the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work Master's program. I am writing in support of SCR 142/SR 78.

Requiring continuing education for licensed social workers will benefit our profession. In the ever evolving field of evidence based practice, cognitive & dialectical behavioral therapies staying abreast to emerging training is necessary to ensure the highest level of care. Physicians, nurses and other medical personal that have to apply for licensure require continuing education. It is a benefit for our profession to have mandated continuing education. In my experience working with Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) those whom are exposed to up to date practices and polices tend to have a sound clinical practice.

In closing, I am in support of SCR 142/SR 78 that requires licensed social workers to attain continuing education. In the near future I will be applying for licensure and I am in support of perennial education.

Brandon Kang

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LATE

To: The Honorable Chairperson Green, Oakland & Nishihara
From: Neav McAlister

Regarding: Legislation SCR142 & SR78 CPN Room: 229 3/28/12 (Wednesday)
9:15 AM

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HCR 14 for continuing education for Licensed Social Workers in the State of Hawaii. I currently am a student in a Master's program for Social Work and plan to pursue licensure in my career. My employment history in public and private sectors have all included continuing education as part of my training, and professional development. Education and knowledge are key in the support of our communities. Education should not stop at licensure nor does Hawaii does need to be the last State to implement Continued Education for Social Workers. I strongly support professional development, education, accountability and incorporating those values into the standards for the State. I ask the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the National Association of Social Workers to consider my testimony and the positive outcomes for our communities that Continued Education for Licensed Social Workers would provide.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Neav McAlister