
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY: HAWAII DIVISION, TO DEVELOP DRAFT LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING, IMPLEMENTING, AND MONITORING CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the profession of marriage and family therapy
2 provides critically needed services in prevention, intervention,
3 and treatment to a broad spectrum of clients; and
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5 WHEREAS, it is vitally important that marriage and family
6 therapists provide the best possible service to their clients;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, continuing education is essential to help marriage
10 and family therapists maintain their professional competency and
11 keep abreast of the latest developments in their profession; and
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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of only three states that do not
14 require continuing education credits as part of their licensing
15 law for marriage and family therapists; and
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17 WHEREAS, the American Association for Marriage and Family
18 Therapy is a membership organization that represents
19 approximately 25,000 marriage and family therapists across the
20 nation, and the Hawaii Division represents about 360 marriage
21 and family therapists across the State; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is
24 charged with protecting consumers through its regulatory and
25 licensing responsibilities; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
28 recommends that the American Association for Marriage and Family
29 Therapy: Hawaii Division complete the Department of Commerce and



1 Consumer Affairs, Professional and Vocational Licensing
2 Division's Continuing Professional Education Guidelines
3 Checklist; and

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5 WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
6 and American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii
7 Division are currently working together on specific provisions
8 to be included in a bill to establish continuing education
9 requirements for licensed marriage and family therapists; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
12 and American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii
13 Division have also identified issues relevant to the requirement
14 for continuing education for licensed marriage and family
15 therapists, such as:

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- 17 (1) Ensuring that such requirements do not impose an undue
- 18 burden on marriage and family therapists in rural
- 19 areas of Hawaii;
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- 21 (2) Using an established, widely recognized non-
- 22 governmental entity to approve continuing education
- 23 credits; and
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- 25 (3) Ensuring that the program to implement and monitor
- 26 continuing education credits for licensed marriage and
- 27 family therapists is cost-neutral to the State; and
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29 WHEREAS, there are currently opportunities offered by
30 approved providers for continuing education statewide, including
31 in rural areas, such as in-person courses, webinars, and
32 teleconferences; and

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34 WHEREAS, continuing education opportunities should be made
35 available to members and non-members of the American Association
36 for Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii Division; and

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38 WHEREAS, the joint effort of the Department of Commerce and
39 Consumer Affairs and American Association for Marriage and
40 Family Therapy: Hawaii Division is critical in increasing and
41 maintaining the professional competence of licensed marriage and
42 family therapists in Hawaii through a continuing education
43 program; now, therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
4 Commerce and Consumer Affairs and American Association for
5 Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii Division are urged to
6 continue collaborating on the issue of developing, implementing,
7 and monitoring continuing education requirements for all
8 licensed marriage and family therapists in Hawaii; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Association for
11 Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii Division is urged to
12 complete the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs,
13 Professional and Vocational Licensing Division's Continuing
14 Professional Education Guidelines Checklist; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by no later than 20 days prior
17 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014, the Department
18 of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and American Association for
19 Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii Division are requested to
20 submit to the Legislature a proposed draft for a bill to
21 establish, implement, and monitor continuing education
22 requirements for all licensed marriage and family therapists in
23 Hawaii; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce
27 and Consumer Affairs and President of the American Association
28 for Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii Division.

