
HOUSE 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
4

5 WHEREAS, it is vitally important that marriage and family
6 therapists provide the best possible service to their clients;
7 and
8

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
12

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
16

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
22

23 WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is
24 charged with protecting consumers through its regulatory and
25 licensing responsibilities; and
26

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
30 Consumer Affairs, Professional and Vocational Licensing
31 Division's Continuing Professional Education Guidelines
32 Checklist; and



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

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

13 (1) Ensuring that such requirements do not impose an undue
14 burden on marriage and family therapists in rural
15 areas of Hawaii;
16

17 (2) Using an established, widely recognized non-
18 governmental entity to approve continuing education
19 credits; and
20

21 (3) Ensuring that the program to implement and monitor
22 continuing education credits for licensed marriage and
23 family therapists is cost-neutral to the State; and
24

25 WHEREAS, there are currently opportunities offered by
26 approved providers for continuing education statewide, including
27 in rural areas, such as in-person courses, webinars, and
28 teleconferences; and
29

30 WHEREAS, continuing education opportunities should be made
31 available to members and non-members of the American Association
32 for Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii Division; and
33

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



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, that the Department of Commerce and Consumer
4 Affairs and American Association for Marriage and Family
5 Therapy: Hawaii Division are urged to continue collaborating on
6 the issue of developing, implementing, and monitoring continuing
7 education requirements for all licensed marriage and family
8 therapists in Hawaii; and

9
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

15
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

24
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and
27 Consumer Affairs and President of the American Association for
28 Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii Division.

