
SENATE 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 and American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy:
29 Hawaii Division are currently working together on specific



1 provisions to be included in a bill to establish continuing
2 education requirements for licensed marriage and family
3 therapists; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
6 and American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy:
7 Hawaii Division have also identified issues relevant to the
8 requirement for continuing education for licensed marriage and
9 family therapists, such as:

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- 11 (1) Ensuring that such requirements do not impose an undue
12 burden on marriage and family therapists in rural
13 areas of Hawaii;
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 - 15 (2) Using an established, widely recognized non-
16 governmental entity to approve continuing education
17 credits; and
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 - 19 (3) Ensuring that the program to implement and monitor
20 continuing education credits for licensed marriage and
21 family therapists is cost-neutral to the State; and
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23 WHEREAS, there are currently opportunities offered by
24 approved providers for continuing education statewide, including
25 in rural areas, such as in-person courses, webinars, and
26 teleconferences; and
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28 WHEREAS, continuing education opportunities should be made
29 available to members and non-members of the American Association
30 for Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii Division; and
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32 WHEREAS, the joint effort of the Department of Commerce and
33 Consumer Affairs and American Association for Marriage and
34 Family Therapy: Hawaii Division is critical in increasing and
35 maintaining the professional competence of licensed marriage and
36 family therapists in Hawaii through a continuing education
37 program; now, therefore,
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
41 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
42 Commerce and Consumer Affairs and American Association for
43 Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii Division are urged to
44 continue collaborating on the issue of developing, implementing,



1 and monitoring continuing education requirements for all
2 licensed marriage and family therapists in Hawaii; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and
5 Consumer Affairs' continuing professional education guidelines
6 checklist act as the framework for further discussion; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than twenty days prior
9 to the Regular Session of 2014, the Department of Commerce and
10 Consumer Affairs and American Association for Marriage and
11 Family Therapy: Hawaii Division are requested to submit to the
12 Legislature a proposed draft for a bill to establish, implement,
13 and monitor continuing education requirements for all licensed
14 marriage and family therapists in Hawaii; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce
18 and Consumer Affairs and President of the American Association
19 for Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii Division.
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