

MAR 13 2013

SENATE 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: Hawaii
29 Division are currently working together on specific provisions
30 to be included in a bill to establish continuing education
31 requirements for licensed marriage and family therapists; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
2 and American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii
3 Division have also identified issues relevant to the requirement
4 for continuing education for licensed marriage and family
5 therapists, such as:

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- 7 (1) Ensuring that such requirements do not impose an undue
8 burden on marriage and family therapists in rural
9 areas of Hawaii;
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 - 11 (2) Using an established, widely recognized non-
12 governmental entity to approve continuing education
13 credits; and
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 - 15 (3) Ensuring that the program to implement and monitor
16 continuing education credits for licensed marriage and
17 family therapists is cost-neutral to the State; and
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19 WHEREAS, there are currently opportunities offered by
20 approved providers for continuing education statewide, including
21 in rural areas, such as in-person courses, webinars, and
22 teleconferences; and

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

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28 WHEREAS, the joint effort of the Department of Commerce and
29 Consumer Affairs and American Association for Marriage and
30 Family Therapy: Hawaii Division is critical in increasing and
31 maintaining the professional competence of licensed marriage and
32 family therapists in Hawaii through a continuing education
33 program; now, therefore,

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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013,
37 that the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and
38 American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii
39 Division are urged to continue collaborating on the issue of
40 developing, implementing, and monitoring continuing education
41 requirements for all licensed marriage and family therapists in
42 Hawaii; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than twenty days prior
2 to the Regular Session of 2014, the Department of Commerce and
3 Consumer Affairs and American Association for Marriage and
4 Family Therapy: Hawaii Division are requested to submit to the
5 Legislature a proposed draft for a bill to establish, implement,
6 and monitor continuing education requirements for all licensed
7 marriage and family therapists in Hawaii; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and
11 Consumer Affairs and President of the American Association for
12 Marriage and Family Therapy: Hawaii Division.
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OFFERED BY:

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