
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;
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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
30 provisions to be included in a bill to establish continuing
31 education requirements for licensed marriage and family
32 therapists; and



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

- (1) Ensuring that such requirements do not impose an undue burden on marriage and family therapists in rural areas of Hawaii;
- (2) Using an established, widely recognized non-governmental entity to approve continuing education credits; and
- (3) Ensuring that the program to implement and monitor continuing education credits for licensed marriage and family therapists is cost-neutral to the State; and

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

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

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

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



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