



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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KEALI'I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND
VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Wednesday, February 20, 2013
2:00 p.m.

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 178, H.D. 1, RELATING TO CONTINUING
EDUCATION.**

TO THE HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue and I am the Executive Officer of the Social Worker Program ("Program"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 178, H.D. 1. The companion bill, Senate Bill No. 200, Relating to Continuing Education, was passed by the Senate Committee on Human Services without amendments on January 31, 2013.

The purpose of the bill is to require licensed social workers in Hawaii to:

1) complete a minimum of fifteen (15) credit hours of continuing education courses for

the licensing renewal period beginning July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016; and 2) complete a minimum of forty-five (45) credit hours of continuing education courses during each renewal period beginning July 1, 2016, and thereafter.

By way of background, the Department and the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter (“NASW-Hawaii”) were requested pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 78, which was adopted by the Senate of the Twenty-Sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, to submit a proposed draft for a bill to establish, implement and monitor continuing education requirements for all licensed social workers in the State of Hawaii. As such, and after several months of discussion and compromise between the parties, a proposed bill was submitted to the State of Hawaii Legislature on December 20, 2012.

As written, the Program supports this bill as it will ensure that licensed social workers maintain their professional competency and keep abreast of the latest developments in their profession. It is estimated that approximately 1,681 licensed social workers (LBSW – 15, LSW – 910, and LCSW – 756) will be required to obtain continuing education credits as proposed in this bill. However, similar to other professions that require continuing education, the Program in consultation with the NASW-Hawaii, agreed to perform post-renewal random audits of 5% - 10% of its licensees who renew their social worker licenses. By choosing to perform post-renewal random audits, the Program’s staff will have little to no impact on its workload due to this additional requirement.

Furthermore, the bill will no longer place the Program in the minority as one (1) of only three (3) jurisdictions that do not require continuing education credits as a part of its licensing laws.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 178, H.D. 1.

February 19, 2013

To: The House Committee on Finance

From: Dr. Noreen Mokuau
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, MBT School of Social Work

Re: SUPPORT of HB 178, HD1, relating to continuing education for social workers

Chairperson Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance

My name is Dr. Noreen Mokuau, and I am writing today in support of HB 178, HD1, relating to continuing education for social workers.

As the dean of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I am committed to the concepts of life-long learning and continual professional development. These are values that are especially important for professional social workers because theories and skills within the field are constantly changing and improving. In order to be as effective as we can be, professional social workers must keep abreast with the latest knowledge and technologies available.

The MBT School of Social Work is also committed to meeting the changing needs and demands of the professional social work community. As part of that commitment, the school has increased its credit and non-credit course offerings in recent years. In addition to expanding the range of topics being covered – from practice theories and methodologies to clinical supervision and program management, the School has also expanded the formats through which the trainings are being delivered. So, while many of the trainings are being done in the traditional, face to face, manner, we are increasingly expanding our distance education options that utilize two-way video and internet based technologies for course delivery. Should continuing education credits be required for licensed social workers in Hawaii, we at the MBT School of Social Work are confident that we will be able to assist practitioners by providing training opportunities to workers in the entire state – including neighbor islands and rural areas of Oahu.

I am therefore strongly urging your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer these comments.

February 19, 2013

TO: Representative Sylvia J. Lake, Chair House Finance Committee
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Representative Ty Cullen
Representative Mark J. Hashem
Representative Kaniela Ing
Representative Jo Jordan
Representative Bert Kobayashi
Representative Nicole Lowen
Representative Dee Morikawa
Representative Richard H. K. Onishi
Representative Gregg Takayama
Representative James Kunane Tokioka
Representative Justin Woodson
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita
Representative Beth Fukumoto
Representative Gene Ward

February 20, 2013 2:00pm Conference Room 308

FROM: S. Joy Quick, MA, MFT, CSAPA; AAMFT Hawaii Division President-Elect

RE: HB 178 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers - **SUPPORT**

Representative Sylvia J. Luke, Chair, Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am Joy Quick. I am a Hawaii licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and I strongly support HB 178 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers.

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- Continuing education increases the knowledge base and competency levels of social work professionals.
- Continuing education requirements ensure that licensed social workers have access to best practices and innovations in the field of social work and can continue to provide quality services to an array of clients.
- Continuing education opportunities will continue to be available statewide via in-person webinars, and teleconference (i.e. Polycom) by approved providers.

- All states, except New York and Hawaii, have continuing education requirements for licensed social workers. CE is a national standard. We social workers want to be recognized as meeting that standard.
- Social work provides critical services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to a broad spectrum of clientele.
- Consumer Protection: Requiring continuing education courses for social workers who are renewing their licenses will give assurance to Hawaii's consumers that social workers are current with the latest developments in their field.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 178. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

February 18, 2013

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair Finance Committee
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen
Representative Mark J. Hashem
Representative Kaniela Ing
Representative Jo Jordan
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Representative Beth Fukumoto
Representative Gene Ward

February 20, 2013; 2:00 p.m.; Conference Room 308

FR: Sharon Otagaki, LSW; ACSW

RE: HB 178; HD1

Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair Aaron Ling Johanson, and Members of the House Finance Committee, my name is Sharon Otagaki and I am the chair of the Legislative Committee of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Hawaii Chapter. NASW is the largest professional organization of social workers in Hawaii with over 950 members, and has been committed to the professional development and ethical practice standards of social workers. NASW strongly supports HB 178 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers.

Social workers provide critical services to a broad spectrum of clients in health, mental health, substance abuse, child welfare, education, rehabilitation, and aging. It is essential for social workers to engage in continuing education to regularly increase their knowledge base, competency levels, best practices, and social work ethics. Hawaii and New York are the only two states that do not require continuing education for licensed social workers. If passed, HB 178 will ensure consumers of social work services and their communities that social workers are current with the latest developments in their field, and are providing quality services.

Once again, NASW strongly supports HB 178, and urges your favorable consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter
February 17, 2013

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair Committee on Finance
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Representative Ty J.K. Cullen	Representative Richard H.K. Onishi
Representative Mark J. Hashem	Representative Gregg Takayama
Representative Kaniela Ing	Representative James Kunane Tokioka
Representative Jo Jordan	Representative Justin H. Woodson
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi	Representative Kyle T. Yamashita
Representative Nicole E. Lowen	Representative Beth Fukumoto
Representative Dee Morikawa	Representative Gene Ward

February 20, 2013 2:00 Conference Room 308

FROM: Marty Oliphant, Executive Director
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

RE: HB 178 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers - **SUPPORT**

Representative Sylvia Luke Chair, Scott Y. Nishimoto Vice Chair, Representative Aaron Ling Johanson Vice Chair, and members of the Finance Committee, my name is Marty Oliphant. I serve as the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawai'i Chapter (NASW). NASW strongly supports HB 178 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers.

Consumer Protection ~ Requiring continuing education courses for social workers who are renewing their licenses will give assurance to Hawai'i's consumers that social workers are current with the latest developments in their field.

National Association of Social Workers (NASW), in Hawai'i, is the largest membership organization of professional social workers with 950 members statewide. It promotes, develops, and protects the practice of social work and social workers. NASW also seeks to enhance the well being of individuals, families and communities through its advocacy. NASW has been working closely with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to develop language for this legislative bill. Continuing Education, in any profession, increases the knowledge base and the competency level of professionals. NASW views continuing education as an essential activity for ensuring quality social work services for clients. Social Workers are providing services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to an array of clients. Knowing the best practices and innovations in the field of social work will assist in protecting consumers in getting the best services as possible.

All states, except New York and Hawaii, have continuing education requirements for licensed social workers. Social work provides critical services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to a broad spectrum of clientele. Continuing education opportunities will continue to be available statewide via in-person webinars, and teleconference (i.e. Polycom) by approved providers. Continuing education is a national standard. Social workers want to be recognized as meeting that standard.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 178. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi

Rep. Mark J. Hashem Rep. Gregg Takayama

Rep. Kaniela Ing Rep. James Kunane Tokioka

Rep. Jo Jordan Rep. Justin H. Woodson

Rep. Bertrand
Kobayashi Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen Rep. Beth Fukumoto

Rep. Dee Morikawa Rep. Gene Ward

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 20, 2013

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 308
 State Capitol
 415 South Beretania Street

FROM: Victor Voth, LCSW, DCSW
 President
 National Association of Social Workers - Hawaii Chapter

RE: HB 178 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers - SUPPORT

- **Consumer Protection**: Requiring continuing education courses for social workers who are renewing their licenses will give assurance to Hawaii's consumers that social workers are current with the latest developments in their field. Social workers provide critical services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to a broad spectrum of clientele, including women, children and families, the incarcerated, the elderly, the medically vulnerable, the homeless and the marginalized who face racial and gender discrimination all of whom deserve to know their social worker is current in their chosen area of practice.

- Continuing education increases the **knowledge base** and **competency levels** of social work professionals. I serve returning Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, many of whom present complex emotional, psychological and physical needs requiring in many cases long-term care from a multi-disciplinary team of care providers. It is critical that these men and women Veterans know that I and my social work colleagues are current and trained in up-to-date treatment methods and care no less than any other professional serving them.
- **Access to best practices and innovations** in the field of social work. The role of the Hawaii chapter of NASW will be to assist in the coordination of the variety of important trainings necessary to ensure that its membership is in compliance with this critical legislation, to include not only in-person trainings but electronic teleconference and webinar outreach to social workers in both urban and rural settings throughout Hawaii.
- **Continuing education is a national standard and social work ethic**. All states, except New York and Hawaii, have continuing education requirements for licensed social workers. Our Hawaii communities deserve that social workers in Hawaii be recognized as professionals meeting that standard.

I strongly urge your favorable consideration of HB 178.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
Victor Voth, LCSW, DCSW

February 2, 2013

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair House Finance Committee
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen
Representative Mark J. Hashem
Representative Kaniela Ing
Representative Jo Jordan
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi
Representative Nicole E. Lowen
Representative Dee Morikawa
Representative Richard H.K. Onishi
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Representative James Kunane Tokioka
Representative Justin H. Woodson
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita
Representative Beth Fukumoto
Representative Gene Ward

February 20, 2013 2:00 Room 308

FROM: Stephanie W. Batzer

RE: HB 178 Relating to Continuing Education - **SUPPORT**

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Representative Johanson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Finance Committee, my name is Stephanie Batzer. I am a Masters of Social Work candidate at the University of Hawaii, and a student member of the National Association of Social Workers, as well as a member of its Executive Committee. I have had the great fortune to travel and live across the globe during the course of my adult life, finally settling in this great state for the past 15 years. Four years ago, I chose to make a mid life career change, moving from information technology to social work in order to give back to the communities that have supported me over my career. I have come to see Hawaii as a great melting pot, filled with different cultures, which have unique perceptions as to their needs and beliefs. I strongly support HB 178 Relating to Continuing Education.

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- Continuing education increases the knowledge base and competency levels of social work professionals.
- Continuing education requirements ensure that licensed social workers have access to best practices and innovations in the field of social work and can continue to provide quality services to an array of clients.

- Continuing education opportunities will continue to be available statewide via in-person webinars, and teleconference (i.e. Polycom) by approved providers.
- All states, except Colorado and Hawaii, have continuing education requirements for licensed social workers. CE is a national standard. We social workers want to be recognized as meeting that standard.
- Social work provides critical services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to a broad spectrum of clientele.
- Consumer Protection: Requiring continuing education courses for social workers who are renewing their licenses will give assurance to Hawaii's consumers that social workers are current with the latest developments in their field.

These reasons support the core values rooted in the mission of social work, which include:

- Service
- Social justice
- Dignity and worth of the person
- Importance of human relationships
- Integrity, and
- Competence

Competence is the key core value driving our need for continuing education. Ethically, social workers practice within their areas of competence and develop and enhance their professional expertise. Our code of ethics from the NASW states: "Social workers should strive to become and remain proficient in professional practice and the performance of professional functions. Social workers should critically examine and keep current with emerging knowledge relevant social work. Social workers should routinely review the professional literature and participate in continuing education relevant to social work practice and social work ethics."

I believe that the practice of continuing education stimulates the day-to-day practice of social workers by exposing them to new ideas and techniques. It also keeps social worker skills sharp, avoiding obsolescence. We don't know what will be important in 10 years. We don't know what research will be published, what concepts will make a difference in our clients lives. Continuing education is vital in providing services across our diverse population.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 178.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Feb. 19, 2013

TO: Rep. Sylvia Luke Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Lana Sue Ka 'opua, PhD, DCSW, LSW

RE: HB 178 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers - **SUPPORT**

My name is Lana Sue Ka'opua and I am a licensed social worker, social work educator, researcher specializing in evidence-based health interventions, and a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). I strongly support HB 178 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers.

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- Continuing education (CE) increases the knowledge base and competency levels of social work professionals.
- CE requirements ensure that licensed social workers have access to best practices and innovations in the field of social work and thus, are able to provide services based on evidence-based (empirical) research and best practices literature. Importantly, this serves to protect those who we serve as clients.
- CE opportunities will continue to be available statewide via in-person webinars, and teleconference (i.e. Polycom) by approved providers.
- CE in social work is the national standard. Hawai'i is one of only two states that presently, have no CE requirements for licensed practitioners. We in Hawai'i aspire to meeting the national standard.
- Social work provides critical services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to a broad spectrum of clientele.
- Requiring CE courses for social workers renewing their licenses will give assurance to Hawai'i's consumers that social workers are current with the latest developments in their field.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 178.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521-8995

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

February 18, 2013

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 178, HD1
Relating to Continuing Education

Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair Aaron Ling Johanson and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Darryl Salvador. I am a Clinical Psychologist and President of Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA). I would like to provide testimony in support of House Bill 178, HD1.

Similar to the National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter, the mission of the HPA is to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by encouraging, integrating, applying, and communicating the contributions of Psychology in all its branches. The HPA seeks to strengthen public relations, advocate for a psychologically healthy community, develop solutions for mental health care, be responsive to the multiple cultures in Hawai'i, promote the highest standards of professional ethics, and to diffuse psychological knowledge through meetings, conventions and publications. As part of this mission, we are committed to promoting lifelong learning to account for the changing world in which we live. We support this bill with the shared goal to promote client/patient safety and support the valuable role social workers contribute in our health care system.

It is estimated that the rate of human information is doubling every two years. Additionally, multicultural experts have pointed to changing demographics in the United States, particularly Hawai'i, and suggest that professionals must make substantive revisions to their curriculum, training, research and practice to address issues of race and ethnicity, culture, gender and sexual orientation. To maintain minimal competency in working with these diverse populations, we must understand the cultural context of these populations, be aware of potential bias in our practices and be familiar with culturally adapted treatments.

We all must maintain the ability to learn how to learn, be able to adapt to change and access new knowledge to improve our competencies and performance. The goal is to constantly recharge our batteries to motivate self-renewal and keep abreast of new

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
February 18, 2013
Page 2

knowledge, skills and relevant information. We feel that HB 178, HD1 is an important step in that direction.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of HB 178, HD1.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl S. Salvador, Psy.D.
Hawai'i Psychological Association
President

February 19, 2013

TO: Finance Committee
Rep. Sylvia Luke Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

February 20 at 2 p.m in Room 308

FROM: Mari Ono, MSW, LSW

RE: HB 178 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers - **SUPPORT**

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair; Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair; Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair and members of the Finance Committee, I am Mari Ono, MSW. I am a social worker and a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). I strongly support HB 178 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers.

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- Continuing education increases the knowledge base and competency levels of social work professionals.
- Continuing education requirements ensure that licensed social workers have access to best practices and innovations in the field of social work and can continue to provide quality services to our diverse clients.
- Continuing education opportunities will continue to be available statewide via in-person webinars, and teleconference (i.e. Polycom) by approved providers.
- All states, except New York and Hawaii, have continuing education requirements for licensed social workers. CE is a national standard. We social workers want to be recognized as meeting that professional standard.
- Social work provides critical services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to a broad spectrum of clientele.
- Consumer Protection: Requiring continuing education courses for social workers who are renewing their licenses will give assurance to Hawaii's consumers that social workers are current with the latest developments in their field.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 178.

Mahalo.

February 19, 2013

To: The House Committee on Finance

From: Nathan Chang

Re: SUPPORT for HB 178, HD1, relating to continuing education for social workers

Chairperson Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Nathan Chang, and I am writing today in support of HB 178, HD1, relating to continuing education for social workers.

First, let me say that I have been a practicing social worker in Hawai'i for more than 37 years, have been an active member of the National Association of Social Workers for the same period of time, and was one of a group of social workers who developed the current licensing statute for social workers twelve years ago. I have a strong commitment to the profession, to the concept of professionalism, and to the public that we serve. It is from this perspective that I advocate for the passage of this measure.

I must admit that I was initially somewhat hesitant to support mandated continuing education for social workers as it would place yet another financial burden on practitioners who are generally not compensated adequately for the work that they do and the responsibilities that they carry. However, after long contemplation regarding the relevant issues and concerns, I have determined that it is a reasonable and necessary addition to the current licensing law.

An inherent part of being a professional is the utilization of theory to inform practice and the continual maintenance and enhancement of practice skills. As such, it is necessary for professionals to keep up with developments within the field in relation to things like research and theory on best practices. It has been my observation over the years that most social workers understand this and do seek continual training to maintain their theory base and skills. They would not be adversely affected by this measure because they are already engaged in continuing education. The concern is for those social workers who need more incentive to do so, and that is what this measure would provide.

I am therefore strongly urging your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer these comments.