

# **HB 178, HD1**

Measure Title: RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION.

Report Title: Social Workers; Continuing Education

Description: Requires licensed social workers to complete a minimum of 15 credit hours of continuing education courses for the licensing renewal period beginning 07/01/2013, through 06/30/2016, and 45 credit hours of continuing education courses during each licensing renewal period, for the period beginning 07/01/2016, and thereafter. Effective 01/01/2112. (HD1)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS, CPN

Introducer(s): CARROLL, AWANA, EVANS, LOWEN, MIZUNO, Souki



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2013

Tuesday, March 12, 2013  
1:45 p.m.

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

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, 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 on House Bill No. 178, H.D. 1.

The companion bill, Senate Bill No. 200, Relating to Continuing Education, was passed unamended by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection on February 20, 2013. The only substantive difference between H.B. 178, H.D.1 and S.B. 200 are the effective dates of each bill. The House bill is effective January 1, 2012

and the Senate bill is effective upon approval. Our preference is the Senate version of the bill.

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 on House Bill No. 178, H.D. 1.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [annie.hollis.hcsw@gmail.com](mailto:annie.hollis.hcsw@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB178 on Mar 12, 2013 13:45PM\*  
**Date:** Sunday, March 10, 2013 8:02:24 AM

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**HB178**

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 12, 2013 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annie Hollis	Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women	Support	No

**Comments:**

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# Hawai'i Psychological Association

## *For a Healthy Hawai'i*

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**Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair**  
**Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair**  
**Committee on Human Services**

**March 7, 2013**

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

Honorable Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Josh Green 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 knowledge, skills and relevant information. We feel that HB 178, HD1 is an important step in that direction.

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
March 7, 2013  
Page 2

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

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Daryl Selman, President  
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director  
Aloha House  
American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii  
Bay Clinic, Inc.  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu  
Big Island Substance Abuse Council  
Blueprint for Change  
Bobby Benson Center  
Catholic Charities Hawaii  
Child and Family Service  
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii  
Domestic Violence Action Center  
EPIC, Inc.  
Family Support Hawaii  
Hale Kipa, Inc.  
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.  
Hawaii Behavioral Health  
Hawaii Student Television  
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition  
Hina Mauka Teen Care  
Hui Malama Learning Center  
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health  
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)  
Project  
Kids Hurt Too  
Kokua Kalihi Valley  
Life Foundation  
Marimed Foundation  
Maui Youth and Family Services  
Palama Settlement  
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.  
Parents and Children Together (PACT)  
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii  
REAL  
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.  
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.  
Sex Abuse Treatment Center  
Susannah Wesley Community Center  
The Catalyst Group  
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii  
Waikiki Health Center  
Women Helping Women  
YWCA of Kauai

March 6, 2013

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

## Testimony in Support of HB 178 HD1 Relating to Continuing Education

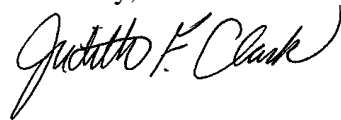
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 178 HD1 Relating to Continuing Education.

Every state except Colorado and Hawaii has continuing education requirements for social workers. Continuing education is important because:

- Social workers need to be up-to-date on the latest developments in their field;
- It ensures that licensed social workers have access to the best practices and innovations in the field of social work and can continue to provide quality services to an array of clients, and are necessary to increase and maintain professional competence.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director





National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter  
March 7, 2013

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair Senate Human Services Committee  
Senator Josh Green M.D., Vice Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani  
Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Brian Taniguchi

Date: March 12, 2013 Time: 1:45 p.m. Location: Conference Room 016

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

RE: HB 178, HD1 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers - **SUPPORT**

Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland Chair, Senator Josh Green M.D. Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Marty Oliphant. I serve as the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawai'i Chapter (NASW). I strongly support HB 178, HD1 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers. HB 178 is similar to SB 200 except SB 200 with the exception of the effective date is January 1, 2112.

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.

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. All states, except New York and Hawaii, have continuing education requirements for licensed social workers. Continuing Education is a national 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.

March 8, 2013

To: The Senate Committee on Human Services

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 Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

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 have testified previously on the Senate version of this bill (i.e., SB 200), specifying the need and our willingness and ability to provide continuing education training and courses statewide. My thoughts and position on HB 178, HD1 are identical – with the obvious exception of the amendment that was made in relation to the implementation date. However, as that change was made simply to encourage continued discussion on the bill, I am assuming that it will be returned to the original implementation date at some point in the process.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to offer these comments.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jtomoso@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jtomoso@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB178 on Mar 12, 2013 13:45PM  
**Date:** Friday, March 08, 2013 4:21:49 PM

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**HB178**

Submitted on: 3/8/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 12, 2013 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha kakou I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 178 HD 1, which requires licensed social workers, such as myself, to complete a minimum of fifteen credit hours of continuing education courses for the licensing renewal period beginning July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2016, and forty-five credit hours of continuing education courses during each licensing renewal period, for the period beginning July 1, 2016, and thereafter. Since becoming licensed in Hawai'i in 1995, Social Workers have delivered competent, consumer-protected and regulated practice. However, I believe that our "accountability factor", as practicing professionals in the community, has not been allowed to mature with the parallel and competency validating mandate for continuing education. I think this bill allows my colleagues and I to fully join in with the other "fully regulated" professions, who engage of consumers, in this state. I urge passage of HB 178 HD 1. Mahalo John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW 51 Ku'ula Sreet Kahului, Maui, HI 96732-2906

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March 7, 2013

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

FROM: Kenneth W.Y. Lee, MSW, LSW

RE: HB 178 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers - **SUPPORT**  
HEARING DATE: March 12, 2013

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Josh Green, Vice-Chair and members of the Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, my name is Kenneth W.Y. Lee. I am retired social worker with over 45 years of experience. Since my retirement, I have continued to practice as a licensed social worker through volunteer work with the Hawaii Chapter of the American Red Cross and American Cancer Society. I would like to offer testimony in expression of my avid support of HB 178, HD 1, Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers.

Since I completed my social work training in 1968, the practice of social work has dramatically changed through evidence-based research studies. Some of the social work interventions and practices that I was initially taught have been proven, through evidence-based studies to be ineffective, or sometimes counter productive to clients.

As an example, the model for the stages of resolution of grief (created by Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross in her milestone book "On Death and Dying", 1969) was well accepted and utilized by mental health professionals (myself included) for over four decades. The stages in her model (denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance) have very recently been proven through evidence-based studies to be inaccurate. The model itself was not based on any credible scientific research, yet it was widely accepted by both the professional community and the public. Many mental health professionals, without any knowledge of these recent findings, still continue to use this model of grief resolution, to the possible detriment of their clients.

My strong support of HB 178, HD 1 is for the following reasons:

- Only through mandating continuing education can the State ensure that the knowledge base and competency levels of all licensed social work professionals are current.
- Mandated continuing education ensures that licensed social workers are required to have access to best practices and the most recent innovations in the field of social work. This would improve and maintain the ability of social workers to provide effective, quality services to a broad spectrum of vulnerable clients. Requiring continuing education will

protect Hawaii's consumers by assuring that social workers are current with the latest developments in their field.

- Required continuing education will not present an undue burden for social workers. Many training opportunities are available statewide through in-person webinars, and teleconferences by approved providers.

All states, except Colorado and Hawaii, have continuing education requirements for licensed social workers. CE is a national standard. Hawaii's licensed social workers want to be recognized as meeting a widely accepted professional standard. For this, and all of the above reasons I urge you to support HB 178, HD 1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Kenneth W.Y. Lee, LSW

March 8, 2013

TO: Committee on Human Services  
Sen. Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair  
Sen. Josh Green, Vice Chair

March 12, 2013, 1:45 p.m., Conference Room 016, State Capitol

FROM: Mari Ono, MSW, LSW

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

Sen. Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair; Sen. Josh Green, Vice Chair; Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Sen. Sam Slom, Sen. Brian Taniguchi, 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.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [KHRAPOVM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KHRAPOVM@GMAIL.COM)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB178 on Mar 12, 2013 13:45PM  
**Date:** Saturday, March 09, 2013 11:03:37 PM

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**HB178**

Submitted on: 3/9/2013

Testimony for HMS on Mar 12, 2013 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marina Khrapov	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Marina Khrapov. I am a graduating student this year from the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i. I believe that continuing education requirements ensure that licensed social workers have access to the best practices and improvements in the field of social work and can continue to provide quality services to an array of clients, and are necessary to increase and maintain professional competence. I urge your favorable consideration of HB178. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Sincerely, Marina Khrapov

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March 8, 2013

To: The Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Nathan Chang

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

Chairperson Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

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

I have testified previously on the Senate version of this bill (SB 200) and my thoughts and position in relation to HB 178 would be the same. I am not, however, in favor of the amendment made in the HD1 version of the bill, which changed the implementation date to 2112. As the amendment was made simply to encourage continued discussion on the measure, I have to assume that the intent was to change the implementation date back to its original form somewhere in the process.

With this exception noted, I strongly urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer these comments.



March 11, 2013

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair Senate Human Services Committee  
Senator Josh Green M.D., Vice Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani  
Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Brian Taniguchi

March 12, 2013; 1:45 pm; Conference Room 016

FR: Sharon Otagaki, LSW; ACSW

RE: HB 178, HD1 Relating to Continuing Education For Social Workers  
**STRONGLY SUPPORT**

Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland Chair, Senator Josh Green M.D. Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Human Services 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 in our State. NASW strongly supports HB 178, HD1 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers.

Since there have been no significant changes to this bill, we believe that HB 178 HD1, requiring continuing education for social workers makes good sense in ensuring consumers of our services and their communities that social workers are current with the latest developments in their field, and are providing quality services. It is essential for social workers to regularly increase their knowledge base, competency levels, best practices, and ethics. Hawaii is one of two states that do not require continuing education for licensed social workers.

Once again, NASW strongly supports HB 178 HD 1, and urges your favorable consideration. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony in support of H. B. 178

March 12, 2013

State Capitol

March 8, 2012

RE: Testimony in support of H. B. 178

I, Travis Schmidt, strongly support H. B. 178 relating to the continuing education of licensed social workers. As a MSW candidate, I am glad to see that the standards of such a profession are being set before I enter the profession.

Having mandatory continuing education will ensure that social workers are keeping up on their skills. The implementation of H. B. 178 will keep the profession up to date on policies, practices, procedures and treatment methods. The benefits will be shared by the social workers and their clients alike.

Continuing education is a pillar of development and will advance the social workers' quality of care given to the individual, community and those that call upon social workers for help.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H. B. 178.

Sincerely,

Travis Schmidt