

LATE

March 8, 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 Conference Room 016

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

RE: HB178 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 Victor Voth, I am a clinical social worker and current president of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Hawaii Chapter.

I strongly support SB 200 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers for the following reasons:

- **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 Colorado and Hawaii, have continuing education requirements for licensed social workers. Social workers in Hawaii deserve to be recognized as professionals meeting that standard.
- **Note:** I acknowledge the one discrepancy with regard to effective date as stated in the Senate and House bills. The House Bill 178 states “effective date 2112”; Senate Bill 200 calls for “effective date upon approval”.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 178.

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

LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 12, 2013

TIME: 1:45 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

H.B.#178, HD1: "Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers"

Testimony of SUPPORT by
Timothy C. Hansen, MSW Student

I have been engaged in social work activities for over 25 years. I was licensed as a Social Worker in the State of Wisconsin in 1994. Every 2 years I renew my license and need to state that I have fulfilled my obligation of continuing my education over the previous 24 months by engaging in 30 of hours of Continuing Education. I have found this requirement to be helpful in keeping me accountable to fulfilling my social work value of ever increasing personal competency.

I will be graduating from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa this spring with my Masters in Social Work and plan to take my licensure exam this summer to become a fully Licensed Social Worker in the state of Hawai'i.

I was shocked to learn recently that Hawai'i does not currently require Social Workers to have continuing education as part of their licensure. How sad that we are only one of two or three states that are lacking in this area. I am so glad that there is this proposed bill that would correct this error and better assure the quality of social work practice in our state. I urge you to support this important bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of this bill.

Sincerely,

Timothy C. Hansen
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 6:07 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: aokiw001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB178 on Mar 12, 2013 13:45PM

Categories: Red Category

HB178

Submitted on: 3/11/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Aoki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I served as president of NASW Hawaii Chapter from 2010 to 2012. In my September 2011 letter to our membership, I explained why adding a continuing education requirement to our social work license was important. Here's what I wrote back then: "I need to address in this month's letter why I believe that updating our licensing law to include a continuing competency component. I introduced this issue when I first took office last year, framing it as an initiative to require a minimum number of continuing education credits/units in order to renew your license. The rationales for this were: (1) Hawaii is only 1 of 2 or 3 states who do not have a CE requirement; (2) requiring a certain number of CE's was initially part of our proposed licensing law when first proposed, however, that element was taken out due to the administration's concern about cost; (3) many colleagues with whom I work in the federal government, both civilian and active duty social workers, questioned why Hawaii does not require CE's and felt that it diminished the value/credibility of our license." Since that time, the Chapter leadership has worked with the DCCA to come up with a reasonable update of the social work licensing law that meets the intent of requiring all licensed social workers to engage in continuing education that does not impose an unmanageable financial burden on the government or the licensed social worker. I fully support passage of HB1789. Mahalo. Warren Aoki, LCSW, QCSW

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