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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2013

Monday, February 4, 2013  
2:30 p.m.

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

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, 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. 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.

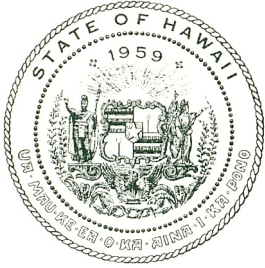
By way of background, the Department and the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter ("NASW-Hawaii") were requested pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 78, which was adopted by the Senate of the Twenty-Sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, to submit a proposed 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.

HAWAII  
STATE  
COMMISSION  
ON THE  
STATUS  
OF  
WOMEN



Chair  
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

ELENA CABATU  
ADRIENNE KING  
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February 4, 2013

Testimony in Support of HB 178

TO: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Derek Kawakami, Vice Chair  
Members of the Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee  
February 4, 2013, 2:30 PM

FROM: Annie Hollis, BA, MSW candidate (2013)  
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, practicum student

RE: HB 178, Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers

The Commission supports HB 178, Continuing Education for Social Workers.

Social workers provide an incredibly comprehensive range of services to diverse communities, from work on an individual level with people to work on a macro scale with organizations and communities. Every state in the nation except Colorado and Hawaii require continuing education. Continuing education requirements ensure 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.

Social workers provide critical services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to a broad spectrum of clientele, including vulnerable women, children, elderly, and families, who are often dealing with challenges such as gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence; access to healthcare and issues around death and dying; and many other issues that intersect with gender in unique ways. Social workers also, often, play an instrumental role in shaping public policy that directly affects the lives of consumers, including policies that affect women, children and families in the areas of safety, health, and political representation—issues that the Commission works on every day. Social workers are a critical piece in the landscape of working towards equality for women and girls.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB 200.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Annie Hollis, BA, MSW candidate (2013)  
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Practicum Student



National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter  
January 29, 2013

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

Representative Della Au Belatti  
Representative Tom Brower  
Representative Rida T.R. Cabanilla  
Representative Romy M. Cachola  
Representative Mele Carroll  
Representative Cindy Evans  
Representative Sharon E. Har

Representative Ken Ito  
Representative Chris Lee  
Representative Clift Tsuji  
Representative Ryan I. Yamane  
Representative Bob McDermont  
Representative Cynthia Thielen

February 4, 2013 2:30 Conference Room 325

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

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

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey Chair, Derek S.K. Kawakami Vice Chair, and members of the Consumer Protection 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.

February 2, 2013

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Committee on Consumer Protection  
and Commerce  
Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

Representative Della Au Belatti	Representative Ken Ito
Representative Tom Brower	Representative Chris Lee
Representative Rida T.R. Cabanilla	Representative Clift Tsuji
Representative Romy M. Cachola	Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Representative Mele Carroll	Representative Bob McDermont
Representative Cindy Evans	Representative Cynthia Thielen
Representative Sharon E. Har	

February 4, 2013 2:30 Conference Room 325

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 Colorado 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



# **Hawai'i Psychological Association**

## *For a Healthy Hawai'i*

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P.O. Box 833  
Honolulu, HI 96808

[www.hawaiipsychology.org](http://www.hawaiipsychology.org)

Phone: (808) 521-8995

**Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair**  
**Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair**  
**Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce**

February 1, 2013

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

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kawakami 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.

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 Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair  
February 1, 2013  
Page 2

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

February 3, 2013

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Committee on Consumer Protection  
and Commerce  
Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

Representative Della Au Belatti  
Representative Tom Brower  
Representative Rida T.R. Cabanilla  
Representative Romy M. Cachola  
Representative Mele Carroll  
Representative Cindy Evans  
Representative Sharon E. Har

Representative Ken Ito  
Representative Chris Lee  
Representative Clift Tsuji  
Representative Ryan I. Yamane  
Representative Bob McDermont  
Representative Cynthia Thielen

February 4, 2013 2:30 p.m. Conference Room 325

FROM: Chris Lopa, CSAC  
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey Chair, Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami Vice Chair, and members of the Consumer Protection Committee, I am Chris Lopa, I am a graduate student at the Myron B. Thompson school of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I strongly support HB 178 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers.

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- Consumer protection: requiring continuing education courses for social workers will give assurance to Hawaii's consumers that social workers are current with the latest developments in their field as a certified substance abuse counselor in the State of Hawaii
- I work as a certified substance abuse counselor (CSAC) in the State of Hawaii. I am required to attend and submit proof of continuing education credits to maintain my certification in order to practice in the state. This process helps me to stay on top of the latest substance abuse treatment methods and trends and it allows me to discuss the application of these methods amongst current practitioners in the field hear in Hawaii.
- In my experience, social workers provide critical services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to a broad spectrum of clientele, including vulnerable women, children, elderly and families, who are often dealing with a broad spectrum of challenges such as gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence; access to healthcare and issues around death and dying; and many other issues that intersect with gender in unique ways.

- In my experience continuing education requirements also help prevent stagnation and burnout. Utilizing the same techniques can become redundant for practitioners and the populations we serve. By staying on the cutting edge of in a field that is as challenging as it is rewarding we are doing ourselves a favor as social workers by preventing burnout, which leads to diminished excellence in the provision of social services.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 178.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

January 31, 2013

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Committee on Consumer Protection  
and Commerce  
Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

Representative Della Au Belatti  
Representative Tom Brower  
Representative Rida T.R. Cabanilla  
Representative Romy M. Cachola  
Representative Mele Carroll  
Representative Cindy Evans  
Representative Sharon E. Har

Representative Ken Ito  
Representative Chris Lee  
Representative Clift Tsuji  
Representative Ryan I. Yamane  
Representative Bob McDermont  
Representative Cynthia Thielen

February 4, 2013 2:30 p.m. Conference Room 325

FROM: Charlene Aleman, MSW, LSW, Secretary of NASW's Hawaii Chapter

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

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey Chair, Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami Vice Chair,  
and members of the Consumer Protection Committee, I am \_\_\_\_\_(Name), I am social worker  
and a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). I strongly support SB  
200 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers.

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- Social work provides critical services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to a broad spectrum of clientele. In my current work, I interact with people and families from ages 0-100 who are dealing with issues of substance abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse, mental illness, medical illness, financial hardships, death & dying, and so much more.
- Continuing education increases the knowledge base and competency levels of social work professionals. As a social worker, I strive to provide the best service possible to my clients and this includes education on current and best practices.
- 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. Social Work is a dynamic field and is constantly changing, requiring social workers to remain up to date on best practices.
- 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.
- 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.  
Charlene Aleman, MSW, LSW

January 31, 2013

To: The House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Hearing: February 4, 2013, 2:30 pm, Conference Room 325

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

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

Chairperson McKelvey and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

My name is Dr. Noreen Mokuau, and I am writing today in support of HB 178, 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.

January 31, 2013

To: The House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Hearing: February 4, 2013, 2:30 pm, Conference Room 325

From: Nathan Chang

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

Chairperson McKelvey and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

My name is Nathan Chang, and I am writing today in support of HB 178, 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.

Feb. 02, 2013

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair  
Representatives Della Au Belatti, Tom Brower, Rida Cabanilla, Romy M. Cachola, Mele Carroll, Cindy Evans, Sharon Har, Ken Ito, Chris Lee, Bob McDermont, Cynthia Thielen, Clift Tsuji, & Ryan I. Yamane  
FROM: Lana Sue Ka'opua, PhD, DCSW, LSW  
RE: HB 178: *Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers* - SUPPORT

Aloha pumehana kakou. My name is Lana Sue Ka'opua. I am a licensed social worker and member of the NASW. Currently, I work with the University of Hawai'i-Manoa as a professor, with a specialty in health social work practice and research aimed at developing evidence-based health interventions with and for the peoples of Hawai'i nei. I testify in support of 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. Social workers in Hawai'i aspire to meet 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.

In closing, I urge your favorable consideration of SB 200 and thank you for this opportunity to testify.



RE: Legislation Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers – **I SUPPORT THIS BILL!**

Aloha:

My name is Bernice Strand, and I am a clinical social worker by training and trade. I am registered in Hawaii and in Wyoming as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). I strongly support the proposed legislation “Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers.”

Here’s why I support this bill:

- The field of social work is rapidly expanding its knowledge base. By requiring those who hold themselves out to be social workers to keep up with changes in the behavioral health field, Hawaii will best assure that consumers will find a helper who has the knowledge base and competency to promptly and effectively assist them. Effective and accurate application of social work science is cost effective.
- Continuing education opportunities are widely available in Hawaii, and are also available statewide via in-person webinars, and teleconference. I am already required to accumulate a substantial number of continuing education course hours for my other licensure, and have had no difficulty reaching the high level of course hours required by that state every two years. The Hawaii legislation requires the same number of course hours and will allow one additional year for each license renewal period. I do not see this as an impediment to continuing to qualify for licensure once the level of hours required reaches 45.
- 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.

I urge your favorable consideration of the legislation Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Bernie Strand, MSW, LCSW, CSAC

February 2, 2013

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair House Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee  
Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair  
Representative Della Au Belatti  
Representative Tom Brower  
Representative Rida T.R. Cabanilla  
Representative Romy M. Cachola  
Representative Mele Carroll  
Representative Cindy Evans  
Representative Sharon E. Har  
Representative Ken Ito  
Representative Chris Lee  
Representative Clift Tsuji  
Representative Ryan I. Yamane  
Representative Bob McDermott  
Representative Cynthia Thielen

February 4, 2013 2:30 Conference Room 325

FROM: Stephanie W. Batzer, MSW Candidate

RE: HB 178 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 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.

February 3, 2013

TO: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Committee  
Representative Derek Kawakami, Vice Chair  
Representative Della Au Belatti  
Representative Tom Brower  
Representative Rida Cabanilla  
Representative Romy Cachola  
Representative Mele Carroll  
Representative Cindy Evans  
Representative Sharon Har  
Representative Ken Ito  
Representative Chris Lee  
Representative Clift Tsuji  
Representative Ryan Yamane  
Representative Bob McDermont  
Representative Cynthia Thielen

February 4, 2013; 2:30 p.m. Conference Room 325

FR: Sharon Otagaki, LSW; ACSW

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

Chair Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair Derek Kawakami, and Members of the Consumer Protection and Commerce 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 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers.

Social workers provide critical services in health, mental health, substance abuse, child welfare, education, rehabilitation, and aging to a broad spectrum of clients. 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.

February 4, 2013  
Conference Room 325, 2:30 pm

TO: Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti	Rep. Romy M. Cachola
Rep. Ken Ito	Rep. Ryan I. Yamane
Rep. Mele Carroll	Rep. Tom Brower
Rep. Chris Lee	Rep. Bob McDermott
Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla	Rep. Clift Tsuji
Rep. Cindy Evans	Rep. Cynthia Thielen
Rep. Sharon E. Har	

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

Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair, and Representative Derek Kawakami, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, my name is Karissa Kinney, and I am an MSW candidate at Hawaii Pacific University. 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 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.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 178.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

February 3, 2013

RE: SB 200 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers - **SUPPORT**

I am Lorraine C. Marais, a social worker, social work educator and a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). I strongly support HB178 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 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.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 178.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Sincerely  
Lorraine C. Marais  
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