

# HB 178, HD1, SD1

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. (SD1)

Companion: SB200

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS, CPN

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



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. Box 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
www.hawaii.gov/dcca

KEALI'I S. LOPEZ  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2013

Thursday, March 28, 2013  
9:30 a.m.

**WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY**

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

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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., S.D. 1.

The companion bill, Senate Bill No. 200, Relating to Continuing Education, was  
passed out by the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection on  
March 13, 2013, with a H.D.1. The only substantive difference between H.B. 178,

H.D.1, S.D. 1 and S.B. 200, H.D. 1 are the effective dates of each bill. The House bill is effective upon approval. The Senate bill is effective on July 1, 2013. Our preference is the House 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

Testimony on House Bill No. 178, H.D. 1, S.D. 1  
Thursday, March 28, 2013  
Page 3

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., S.D. 1.



National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter  
March 15, 2013

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria Vice Chair  
and Committee Members

Date: March 28, 2013 Time: 9:30 a.m. Location Conference Room 229

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

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

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Chair, Senator Brickwood Galuteria Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, 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, SD 1 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers. HB 178 is similar to SB 200 with the exception of the effective date is January 1, 2112. We highly recommend that the effective date be worded: "This Act shall take effect upon its approval".

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. 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 27, 2013

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brickwood Galeteria, Vice Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara  
Senator Malama Solomon  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
Senator Glenn Wakai  
Senator Sam Slom

March 28, 1013; 9:30 am; Conference Room 229

FR: Sharon Otagaki, LSW; ACSW

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

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Chair, Senator Brickwood Galeteria Vice Chair, and members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection 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.



# **Hawai'i Psychological Association**

*For a Healthy Hawai'i*

---

P.O. Box 833  
Honolulu, HI 96808

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

Phone: (808) 521-8995

**Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair**  
**Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair**  
**Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

**March 25, 2013**

**Thursday, March 28, 2013, 9:30 a.m., Room 229**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 178, HD1, SD1**  
**Relating to Continuing Education**

Honorable Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair Brickwood Galuteria and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Darryl Salvador. I am a Clinical Psychologist and President of the Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA). I would like to provide testimony in support of HB 178, HD1, SD1.

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 to 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

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair  
March 25, 2013  
Page 2

constantly recharge our batteries to motivate self-renewal and keep abreast of new and ever-evolving knowledge, skills and relevant information. We feel that HB 178, HD1, SD1 is an important step in that direction.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of HB 178, HD1, SD1.

Respectfully submitted,

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



March 26, 2013

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair  
Senator Clarence H. Nishihara  
Senator Malama Solomon  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
Senator Glenn Wakai  
Senator Sam Slom

March 28, 2013 9:30am Conference Room 229

FROM: Stephanie W. Batzer, MSW Candidate

RE: HB 178, HD1, SB1 Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers - **SUPPORT**

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection 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.

**Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

Thursday, March 28, 2013

Conference Room 229, 9:30 am

TO: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

From: Karissa Kinney, MSW Student

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

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, my name is Karissa Kinney. I am currently 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 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,

Karissa Kinney, MSW Student

**HB178**

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for CPN on Mar 28, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John A. H. Tomoso	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: RE: HB178HD1SB1 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION. Report Title: Social Workers; Continuing Education Aloha kakou, I have submitted supporting testimony on this bill previously. But I just want to comment that with House and Senate drafts now on the docket, and as we conclude the 2013 celebration of "Social Workers Month", I believe my colleagues and I can finally take full responsibility of our licensed practices throughout Hawai'i. Requiring us 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, is a mark of the "maturity" of our regulated practice and profession in Hawai'i and of our effectiveness as a "consumer-focused" profession of advocacy, change, education and quality of life. Mahalo John A. Hau'oli Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW 51 Ku'ula Street Kahului, Maui, HI 96732-2906

**HB178**

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for CPN on Mar 28, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jamie Louis	Individual	Support	No