

LATE

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE:	Thursday, March 28, 2013
TIME:	9:30am
PLACE:	Conference Room 229 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

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

RE: HB 178, HD 1, SB 1: Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers -
STRONG 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, HD 1, SB 1

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
Victor Voth, LCSW, DCSW
President, NASW Hawaii Chapter

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March 27, 2013

To: The Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Edward Mersereau LCSW, CSAC
Action with Aloha

Re: **SUPPORT** of HB 178, HD1, SD1, Relating to continuing education for social workers

Aloha Chairperson Chun Oakland and Committee Members,

I respectfully submit my testimony of unequivocal support for the above measure. As a licensed clinical social worker working in the community, I agree with all of the supporting comment, and other testimony previously submitted. I would like to also underscore a point made by the Hawaii Chapter of NASW that this measure, at its core, is about quality of consumer care and therefore the general public.

Sincerely,

Edward Mersereau LCSW, CSAC
Executive Director

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
Ann S. Freed	Hawai'i Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments: The Hawai'i Women's Coalition is in support of this measure and has submitted previous written testimony that is onfile. Mahalo for your Consideration, Ann S. Freed Co-Chair 808-623-5676