

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 04, 2013

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325

Strong support for HB178, Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kawakami and members of the committee.

Consider that every state in the nation except Colorado and Hawaii require continuing education. In this era of economic crisis it seems prudent to require continuing education courses for social workers in order to assure that Hawaii's social workers are current and effective.

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 host of challenges such as gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence; access to healthcare, issues around death and dying; and many other life challenges that intersect with gender in unique ways.

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.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB178.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed

Co-Chair Hawai'i Women's Coalition

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February 3, 2013

TO: COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

FROM: Ben Myers, Concerned Citizen

LATE

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

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, I strongly support HB 178, Relating to Continuing Education for Social Workers.

I am currently a graduate student in the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i. During the last year I have had the opportunity to work shoulder to shoulder with people who have graduated from the same program over the last several decades. Their views and ideas on treatment and client care cover the entire spectrum of theories and models developed throughout the last several decades as well. Some of the more recent graduates adhere to the newer practices and theories that they have recently learned and conversely the others who have graduated decades ago cling to the ideology and theories that they learned during their MSW program. If there is a not a requirement for continuing education then recent graduates will also cling to the ideologies and theories that they've learned during their education and the cycle will continue.

As social workers the goal is to give the consumer (client) the best possible services and treatments that are available currently. It is a client-centered profession that serves people who are at every stage of life. Our clients need qualified and professional social workers that are educated with the current best practices in their field. 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.

I am currently and educator and continuing education allows teachers to be current and up to date on the best practices to teach and educate the next generation. It has been said that in order to teach you yourself must be learning. As social workers our job is to serve, educate, and empower our clients to better advocate for himself or herself. Continuing education will allow for the growth of professionalism in the field of social work, as well give the consumer the best available continuum of care.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 178.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.