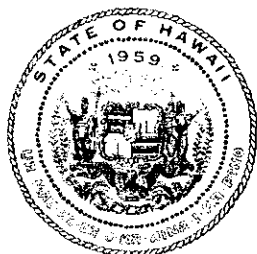


HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

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February 19, 2013

Testimony in Support of HB 178

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Support for 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. 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.

Given that HB 178, HD 1, specifies that licensed social workers will retain their own records regarding continuing education courses completed, we anticipate the costs to the state to be minimal. Therefore, I urge your favorable consideration of HB 178.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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

LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen	Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi
Rep. Mark J. Hashem	Rep. Gregg Takayama
Rep. Kaniela Ing	Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Rep. Jo Jordan	Rep. Justin H. Woodson
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashij	Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen	Rep. Beth Fukumoto
Rep. Dee Morikawa	Rep. Gene Ward

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE:	Wednesday, February 20, 2013
TIME:	2:00 P.M.
PLACE:	Conference Room 308 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

FROM: Terry J Martin, LCSW, DCSW
OEF/OIF/OND Chief VA Pacific Islands Health Care System
Honolulu, HI

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

LATE TESTIMONY

- **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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
Terry J Martin, LCSW, DCSW

LATE TESTIMONY

Senate Joint Committees on Health & Human Services H.B. 178 Relating to Health

Testimony of Yvonne Yim MSW LCSW DCSW Clinical Social Worker Private Practice

February 20, 2013

I am testifying **IN FAVOR** of HB 178

I met a social worker that was assisting an elderly woman find new housing. In exchange for services the elderly woman would watch this social workers children while she was at work. Now this may seem like an innocent financial transaction, but it is unethical!

The social work profession is a science. The information, theories and processes we apply with our clients are empirically based. Everyday social work researchers are evaluating, developing and re-evaluating constructive information to better help our clients. Just as a medical physician learns about new drugs or surgical procedures so must we social workers improve our practice.

HB 178 would allow social workers across our state from Honolulu to the Kau to mandate our clinical accountability to our consumers. Our consumers are the most vulnerable and often powerless because they tend to be the minority of society (e.g. homeless, substance abusers). However, our clients' demographics are changing as more and more individuals, couples and families are turning to social worker for assistance. HB 178 adds a level of protection that does not exist today.

As with any new law there are costs and benefits, however I feel that the cost of HB 178 cannot be measured in numbers. Our consumers need to be protected and I feel strongly that the social work profession needs to also be protected from social workers that practice unethically.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LATE TESTIMONY

February 20, 2013

TO: Finance Committee
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Rep. Ty Cullen
Rep. Richard Onishi
Rep. Mark Hashem
Rep. Kaniela Ing
Rep. Jo Jordan
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi
Rep. Nicole Lowen
Rep. Dee Morikawa
Rep. Gregg Takayama
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Rep. Kyle Yamashita
Rep. Beth Fukumoto
Rep. Gene Ward

FROM: Theresa Kreif, MSW, LSW
Faculty/Junior Specialist and Continuing Education Coordinator
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work
University of Hawaii Manoa

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

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair and members of the House Finance committee, I am Theresa Kreif and I am social worker. I strongly support SB 200 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 are 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.
- 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,

Theresa Kreif, MSW, LSW