

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2013

Wednesday, March 27, 2013  
10:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 201 AND HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 162, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND THE HAWAII PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION TO DEVELOP DRAFT LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING, IMPLEMENTING, AND MONITORING CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL LICENSED PSYCHOLOGISTS IN HAWAII.**

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Carol Nowak, Ph.D., and I am the Chairperson of the Board of Psychology ("Board"). The Board had an opportunity to review House Concurrent Resolution No. 201 and House Resolution No. 162 at its meeting on March 15, 2013, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify on these measures.

The Board supports the efforts of the Legislature to allow the two (2) agencies to work collaboratively on this issue. However, as discussed with the Hawaii Psychological Association ("HPA") at its meeting on March 15, 2013, the Board, while supportive of this matter, urges the HPA to complete the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division's ("Division") Continuing Professional Education Guidelines Checklist ("Checklist"). The Checklist will assist, among other things, the Division in determining whether this extra requirement will place any undue burden on its licensees and/or its staff.

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Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House  
Concurrent Resolution No. 201 and House Resolution 162, with the provision that the  
HPA complete the Division's Checklist.



# **Hawai'i Psychological Association**

## *For a Healthy Hawai'i*

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**Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair**  
**Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair**  
**Committee on Health**

March 25, 2013

**Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 10:00 a.m., Room 329**

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 201 / HR 162**

Urging the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the Hawaii Psychological Association to Develop Draft Legislation Establishing, Implementing and Monitoring Continuing Education Requirements for All Licensed Psychologists in Hawaii

Honorable Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Dee Morikawa and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Darryl Salvador. I am a Clinical Psychologist and the current President of the Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA). I would like to provide testimony in support of HCR 201 / HR 162.

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 resolution with the shared goal to promote client/patient safety and support the valuable role that psychologists 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.

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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. An important goal is to constantly recharge our batteries to motivate self-renewal and keep abreast of new, ever-changing knowledge, skills and relevant information that informs our treatment and practices. We feel that HCR 201 / HR 162 is an important step in that direction.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of HCR 201 / HR 162.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health**

March 25, 2013

**Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 10:00 a.m., Room 329**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 201 / HR 162

Urging the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the  
Hawai'i Psychological Association to Develop Draft Legislation  
Establishing, Implementing and Monitoring Continuing Education  
Requirements for All Licensed Psychologists in Hawaii

I am a Hawai'i Licensed Clinical Psychologist and serve as a Clinical Supervisor and Director of Research and Evaluation with I Ola Lāhui, a rural behavioral health psychology training program.

Due to my professional roles, I firmly believe that continuing education is not only a means to stay abreast of relevant information to provide high quality patient care but it is also an *ethical obligation* for professionals who engage in health care delivery.

Hawai'i would join the 44 other states that have established mandated continuing education units as part of their psychology licensing laws. Thus, there are multiple examples for how this can be implemented and sustained. HCR 201/HR 162 would facilitate a process necessary to research existing models and establish an efficient system for mandating continuing education for psychologists in Hawai'i.

Psychologists 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 knowledge, skills and relevant information. HCR 201 / HR 162 is a vital step in this direction.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in strong support of HCR 201 / HR 162.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Oliveira Gray, Ph.D.  
I Ola Lāhui  
Clinical Supervisor  
Director of Research and Evaluation

**Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health**

**March 26, 2013**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 10:00 a.m., Room 329**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 201 / HR 162**

**Urging the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the Hawaii Psychological Association to Develop Draft Legislation Establishing, Implementing and Monitoring Continuing Education Requirements for All Licensed Psychologists in Hawaii**

Honorable Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Dee Morikawa and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Nancy Sidun. I am a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, former Chair of Hawaii's Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at Argosy University and currently the Supervising Clinical Psychologist at Kaiser Permanente-Hawaii and President-Elect of the Hawaii Psychological Association (HPA). I would like to provide testimony in support of HCR 201 / HR 162.

Education does not end for psychologists when they graduate with their doctorate degree. Given that psychology is a science, it is constantly transforming and developing. Psychologists ***must*** be life long learners to stay current with the emergent practices and knowledge in our field.

The majority of states require continuing education as part of the license renewal process. In fact, in 2006 American Psychological Association (APA) State Provincial Continuing Education in Psychology Requirements did a survey and found that 43 states plus the District of Columbia have continuing education requirements for psychologists. Unfortunately Hawaii is one of few remaining states that do not require continuing education for our licensed psychologists. It is imperative that this be changed. We need to ensure that competent psychologists are serving the citizens in the state of Hawaii. HCR 201 / HR 162 is a valiant and necessary movement to make that a reality.

I thank you in advance for considering my testimony in support of HCR 201 / HR 162.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Sidun, Psy.D., ABPP, ATR

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELLATI, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE DEE MORIKAWA, VICE CHAIR

Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
1833 Kalakaua Ave. Suite 908  
Honolulu, HI 96815

Monday, March 25, 2013

Honorable Chair Bellati, Vice Chair Morikawa, and esteemed members of the House Committee on Health, in regards **to HCR 201** that urges the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) and the Hawaii Psychological Association (HPA) to develop draft legislation establishing, implementing, and monitoring continuing education requirements for all licensed psychologists in Hawaii, I am **STRONGLY in favor** of the resolution as it addresses a serious need for mandated continuing education, ensuring that licensed psychologists remain current with empirically supported treatments, culturally adapted treatments and changes in knowledge and practice in psychology.

My name is Dr. Jeffrey Stern and I am a psychologist who was raised here in Honolulu. I am the Past President of the HPA and have been a member for more than 25 years, though I am submitting this testimony as an individual (not representing HPA). I am also the internship director at HPU's master's program in clinical mental health counseling and I have been teaching research methodology to graduate and undergraduate students at University of Hawaii and Hawaii Pacific University for more than 15 years. I attended a meeting over a year ago with the DCCA in which the issue of mandatory continuing education (heretofore referred to as "MCE") was addressed and the idea was embraced.

In preparation for that meeting, I conducted a literature review on MCE and identified two consistent findings; first, the criticism that continuing education fails to impact treatment outcome is not because of a lack of effect. Rather, it is because research methods are not well suited to measuring this effect. Simply put, absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. Second, licensed psychologists and allied health professionals from states requiring continuing education reported strong satisfaction with their CE experiences.

Key concerns voiced by DCCA in that meeting included access to CE opportunities and cost/expense. I pledge as the Chair of the HPA subcommittee on MCE to make every effort to engage all licensed psychologists in a healthy discussion of the issue. I also pledge that HPA will work closely with DCCA to assure ample affordable and accessible CE opportunities for all licensed psychologists on all islands.

Psychologists' ethical guidelines implicitly mandate a commitment to continuing development of its knowledge base and the practice of clinical psychology should be guided not only by previously established facts and treatments, but also by relevant and more recent additions to our knowledge base. In an age of ever-growing accountability, we have an obligation to consumers and our colleagues to be current with our knowledge in our field (broadly) and our specialties (if applicable).

In a 1990 article by VendeCreek, Knapp, and Brace in *Professional Psychology Research and Practice*, the authors reviewed the literature on effectiveness of CE *across allied health professions* in enhancing quality of services in health professions and concluded that if properly

implemented, CE can positively impact health care In the face of ever- and rapidly-increasing knowledge base and technology. Note, this article is nearly 25 years old, covering research conducted up to 50 years ago. Since then, CE programs have improved and are implemented in a manner that is accessible (including to those living in rural communities) and directly addresses accountability. I emphasize the age of the article as evidence that the time has come for Hawai'i to move forward and mandate continuing education for psychologists.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my mana'o.