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## PRESENTATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2016

Wednesday, February 24, 2016  
2:05 p.m.

### TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2169, H.D. 1, RELATING TO SOCIAL WORKERS.

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is May Ferrer, Executive Officer for the Social Workers Program, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”), Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. The Program appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony offering comments on House Bill No. 2169, H.D. 1, Relating to Social Workers.

House Bill No. 2169, H.D. 1 revises the supervision requirements for the licensure of clinical social workers by deleting the requirements of direct face-to-face supervision and individualized supervision, and replacing it with supervision that may be face-to-face or via a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996-compliant (“HIPAA-compliant”) video conferencing service. By deleting the requirement

for individualized supervision on page 4 line 14, it is not clear what type of supervision would have to occur to meet the sixty hour requirement. The Department recommends that the individualized supervision requirement be retained. Also under the current draft, it is unclear what type of supervision must occur in the group setting.

Regarding the language in the bill that would provide for face-to-face or HIPAA-compliant video conferencing, the Department recognizes that a number of states have begun to authorize face-to-face electronic supervision and understands that this mode of supervision will facilitate supervision in rural areas. The Department suggests that rather than allowing all the supervision to occur in this fashion, the committee consider retaining at least some in person face-to-face supervision. The Department also requests that the bill include a definition of HIPAA-compliant video conferencing so that the required mode of video conferencing is clear.

Regarding the revisions on page 5, lines 20 to page 6 line 1, the Department supports this revision. The Department finds that this language is prohibitive to some individuals who are not able to obtain supervision within their employing agency because a qualified Licensed Clinical Social Worker may not be available, or because the agency does not allow for supervision to take place on site.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2169, H.D. 1.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 11:56 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: hiloprosocial@hotmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2169 on Feb 24, 2016 14:05PM

**HB2169**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 24, 2016 14:05PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matthew Brittain, LCSW	Effective Change, LLC	Support	No

Comments: I have supervised several social workers in preparation for their LCSE licensing. The changes in this bill will help the profession. Hawaii Island, especially, is very remote, and many prospective social workers can not easily get into town to meet the supervisory requirements. I want to HIGHLY ENCOURAGE the inclusion of the following concept/language: (iii) Supervision shall have [occurred in an agency setting that provides] included review of assessment, clinical diagnosis, and psychotherapy AND/ OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT. The reason for explicitly including the option for LCSWs to gain supervision in substance abuse treatment is because as per HRS 431-M, LCSWs are qualified to diagnose mental health AND substance abuse patients. Please add in the suggested language to comply with existing legislative requirements as codified in the DCCA Administrative Rules. Thank you for accepting my testimony. Matthew Brittain, LCSW, DCSW

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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National Association of Social Workers

Date: February 23, 2016

To:

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice-Chair

The National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter (NASW) strongly supports House Bill 2169HD1, relating to social workers,

- NASW Hawaii represents 865 members
- There are currently 1,952 Social Workers licensed by DCCA.
- Tele-medicine has become standard practice in the Social Work/Mental Health field and should be allowed for garnering supervision.
- Social Workers on the neighbor islands, rural Oahu and some Department of Veteran's Affairs Social Workers are currently challenged to meet the statute requirements for direct "Face to Face" Supervision.
- Rural Social Workers qualified to provide supervision for the LCSW Certification are limited in number.
- Universities across the Nation offer both bachelor and masters level Social Work Degrees via technology, which does not require direct in-person "face to face" instruction.

*Sonja Bigalke-Bannan, MSW, LSW*

Sonja Bigalke-Bannan, MSW, LSW

Executive Director

National Association of Social Workers, Hawai'i Chapter

House Committee On Human Services  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

February 15, 2016

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 2016  
TIME: 9:00AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 329

Support for H.B.2169, Relating to Social Work

I currently reside in a rural location, Pahoā, District of Puna, Hawai'i Island. I have the privilege of attending the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Master's in Social Work Distance Education (DE) program via the internet and video conferencing. The video conferencing is a cost effective way that allowed myself the opportunity to care for my family in my rural location and further my education. **I am in strong support of this important housekeeping measure to ensure my accessibility for Licensure.**

Thank you to Senators BAKER, CHUN OAKLAND, GALUTERIA, HARIMOTO, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI, NISHIHARA, Inouye, Tokuda for introducing this important housekeeping measure.

Licensed and Licensed Clinical Social Workers provide integral services to many of our department, agencies and individuals in need. SB2269/HB2169 provides much needed clarification to wording in HRS 467E-7 which will greatly ease the licensure process for the DCCA. **The housekeeping measure also provides important clarification to supervision provided in person or through video conferencing. This will allow more neighbor island and rural O'ahu social workers to obtain clinical supervision. This is critical as rural areas have a shortage of licensed professionals able to provide face-to-face supervision .**

Your support of this housekeeping measure is appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted  
Rachel Kruse  
Master's Social Work Candidate, 2016  
rkruse@hawaii.edu

February 20, 2016

TO: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee of Consumer Protection & Commerce

**TESTIMONIAL SUPPORT ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2169, HD1**  
**RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK**

Wednesday, February 24, 2016      2:05 p.m.      Conference Room 325

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Aloha mai e Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nahe Kawano and I am a native of Molokai. I am a crisis worker with Aloha House Inc.; and am currently working towards my Master's in Social Work degree through University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Distance Education program. I am testifying as an individual in strong support of HB2169, HD1.

Mahalo Representative McKelvey, Fukumoto Chang, Aquino, Cullen, and Morikawa for introducing this bill.

Distance education (DE) has provided me opportunities, which would not have otherwise been available to me. When I first entered the program I was living in Hilo; and in November of 2013 my mom had a stroke. Luckily, the program allowed me to change my DE site. I was able to move back home to Molokai to care for my mom and to *kōkua* (help, support) my *'ohana* (family). Had I been enrolled in a program that did not offer DE, I would have been forced to drop out of the program. Additionally, DE allows us as social work students to work in our communities, which is vital to our learning and practice. Likewise to Distance education, HB2169, HD1 provides opportunities for social workers, especially those in rural areas, to remain in their communities whilst achieving licensure. This is important, as there is a shortage of licensed and licensed clinical social workers in rural areas. Furthermore, it will benefit consumers in these areas by encouraging higher levels of professionalism and services, and client accessibility.

Mahalo for this opportunity to be heard. Your support on this measure will be deeply appreciated.

In closing, I am in strong support of the passing of HB2169, HD1.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nahe Kawano  
Individual  
nahenahek@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair

Gabriele Bush  
Masters of Social Work Candidate, 2016  
P.O. Box 10084  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 24, 2016  
TIME: 2:05 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 325  
State Capitol  
415 South Bertania Street

Support for HB 2169, HD1 (HSCR542-16) -- RELATING TO SOCIAL WORKERS.  
Clarifies the supervision requirements for licensure of clinical social workers, including permitting the supervision requirements to be met through face-to-face supervision or via a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act-compliant video conferencing service (HB 2169 HD1) HUS, CPC

Aloha Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair Justin H. Woodson and Members on the Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 2169 that will clarify requirements for licensure of Clinical Social Workers.

My name is Gabriele Bush and I currently reside in a rural area near Hilo, Hawaii. I am currently in the last semester at the University of Hawai`i at Manoa, Master's in Social Work Distance Education Program. I am testifying in strong support of HB 2169 for supervision requirements. The passing of the HB2169, will benefit other Social Workers and myself on the Big Island and neighbor islands to satisfy supervision requirements needed to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).

Social Workers on the neighbor islands and rural areas on Oahu have been facing barriers to meet face-to-face supervision for licensure requirements. I had to opportunity to attend the Masters in Social Work Distance Education Program at UH Manoa while continuing to stay in my community and working full-time as a substance abuse counselor. I am scheduled to graduate in May 2016. My goal is to obtain licensure as a Clinical Social Worker. The challenge is that the Big Island still has a shortage of Licensed Clinical Social Workers that are able to provide face-to-face supervision. I humbly ask you to support HB 2169.

In closing, I am in strong support of HB 2169 and if it passes, it would benefit not only Social Worker's supervision requirements, but also patients and the community who can be served by more Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) on all islands of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gabriele Bush  
gbush@hawaii.edu



Aloha, my name is Elena Endo. I am a Masters student of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am representing myself. I am in support of bill HB2169 HD1 which clarifies the supervision requirements for licensure of clinical social workers, including permitting the supervision requirements to be met through face-to-face supervision or via a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act-compliant video conferencing service. I'm in my last year of college and I am looking into licensure for clinical social workers. There is a limited number of Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) to provide supervision to where individuals looking to get certified need to find an LCSW outside of the organization which affects time and travel. I feel that allowing supervision over video conferencing would make it easier for individuals trying to obtain their LCSW to find a LCSW for supervision. It would also be beneficial for the LCSW providing the supervision regarding time and travel needed for face to face supervision. We are also in a generation of technology and we should adapt to the times.

Mahalo

Elena Endo

To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER & PROTECTION

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair

RE: HB 2169 Relating to Social Workers

DATE: Wednesday, February 24, 2016

TIME: 2:05 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 325, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Isaac Kawika Nahakū'elua and I am in support of HB 2169 relating to social workers. I am a Master's level graduate student with the Myron B Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and I'm a combat veteran that realizes that there is a great need for licensed clinical social workers for Hawai'i.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Health 18.5% of people experience a mental illness and 4.2% of people experience a severe mental illness, and according to the 2014 census there are approximately 1,419,561 people in Hawai'i. These numbers suggest that there are 262,618 people in Hawai'i that experience a mental illness, and there are 59,621 people in Hawai'i that experience a severe mental illness. According to the state of *Hawai'i Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Professional and Vocational Licensing Division Geographic Report*, the current licenses for mental health workers in Hawai'i as of January 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 report 985 licensed clinical social workers, and the A.M.H.D. (*Adult Mental Health Division*) report 43 different kinds of facilities to treat people with mental illnesses throughout the Hawaiian Islands. This data suggests that for the 262,618 people in Hawai'i that experience a mental illness, and for the 59,621 people that experience a severe mental illness, there are only 985 licensed clinical social workers to assist with mental health treatment. Hawai'i needs more licensed clinical social workers, and your support for HB 2169 relating to social workers would allow a better opportunity for Master's level social workers to get their supervision hours needed for clinical-licensure in effort to help with the high demand of people needing professional mental health treatment in Hawai'i.

As there is a great need for licensed mental health Social Workers in Hawai'i state, I am in support of HB 2169.

Thank you,

Isaac Kawika Nahakū'elua

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 11:53 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: eky808@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB2169 on Feb 24, 2016 14:05PM\*

**HB2169**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 24, 2016 14:05PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erin Yamamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

February 23, 2016

TO: Rep. McKelvey, Chair, Rep. Woodson, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 2:05 pm, Conference room 325

FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW

RE: HB 2169 HD1 Relating to Social Workers

WRITTEN TESTIMONY in SUPPORT

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Woodson and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce. I am testifying in strong support of HB 2169 HD1 Relating to Social Workers.

I was the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter in 1994 when we first established the LSW license for social workers in the state and in 2002 when we added licensing for bachelor level social workers (LBSW) and clinical social workers (LCSW). At that time, 14 years ago, the technology for video conferencing was still fairly new and not fully accepted as a means of communication for a profession that is historically based on face-to-face interaction. In fact, at that time we were very skeptical and cautious about using technology to do therapy. Today the technology has matured and become very sophisticated. Security and privacy issues have been resolved and it is an accepted mode of communication. Telehealth including the use of technology for therapeutic purposes is much more widely accepted than in 2002. In fact, professional education for our degrees and continuing education courses are also now provided via teleconferencing or online. Our professional practice has evolved to embrace technology and so must our statute change to incorporate these new advances.

This bill allows the option of either face-to-face or a HIPAA compliant video conferencing to meet supervision requirements for licensing. Additionally, this will make it easier for our colleagues on the neighbor islands to receive supervision for their clinical license.

We need our profession to keep up with the times and HB 2169 HD1 will help us do that. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
 Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 3:19 PM  
 To: CPCtestimony  
 Cc: john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com  
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2169 on Feb 24, 2016 14:05PM

**HB2169**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 24, 2016 14:05PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: Aloha kakou, As a Licensed Social Worker in Hawai'i, since 1995 and in practice in Hawai'i since 1976, I am in strong support of this bill that allows for easier and more efficient access to licensure for many of my colleagues, especially those who are in rural and geographic areas, including areas here on Maui. Clarifying the supervision requirements for licensure of all levels of Social Work Practice, including permitting the supervision requirements to be met through face-to-face supervision or via a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act-compliant video conferencing service is a really good thing, and will help keep our profession accessible to more citizens of Hawai'i, especially those in rural or geographically isolated areas of our state. Mahalo John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW 51 Kuula Street Kahului, HI 96732-2906

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Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair



Sandy Sproat  
64-646 Puu Pohu Place  
Kamuela, HI 96743  
Email: [sproatks@gmail.com](mailto:sproatks@gmail.com)

Wednesday, February 24, 2016 2:05 pm

Support for HB 2169 Relating to Social Workers

I am in support of HB 2169 because the measures to be implemented through this bill will help get more social workers the supervision they need to meet the requirements that are pre-requisite to licensure options for LCSW.

Supervision is an important component of training and those of us on the outer islands struggle to get adequate supervision. This bill will help us to be paired with competent and specialized supervisors that may not be available on our islands. Please pass this measure to support social workers on the outer islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**LATE**

February 23, 2016

To: Rep. Morikawa, Chair, Rep. Kobayashi, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Human Services.

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 2:05pm, Rm 325

From: Leina'ala Launiu, BA, Psychology, MSW student

RE: HB2169 Relating to Social Workers

WRITTEN TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of HB2169

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Aloha e Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the House Committee on Human Services,

Thank you for introducing this important housekeeping measure. I am testifying in strong support of HB2169 Relating to Social Workers. I am a current graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the School of Social Work's Distance Education (DE) program. This housekeeping measure is very important to me since I will be graduating with my MSW degree this May, and I will then be given the opportunity to start working towards my licensure as a clinical social worker. There is a shortage of Licensed Clinical Social Workers to provide supervision in rural areas like Hilo, Puna, Ka'ū, Waimea, and Honoka'a. I have been fortunate enough to obtain my MSW degree through a DE program, which allowed me to serve, learn, and grow within my East Hawai'i community. HB2169 will be able to provide that same opportunity of growth on the neighbor islands for individuals, like me, who are looking to obtain clinical supervision hours for licensure. I am confident that this housekeeping measure will both improve clinical professionalism and increase client accessibility to clinical services in rural areas.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Leina'ala Launiu, BA, Psychology, MSW student



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 2:34 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: joan@joanlevy.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2169 on Feb 24, 2016 14:05PM

**HB2169**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 24, 2016 14:05PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joan Levy	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am an LCSW in private practice for 35 years. When I lived in California it was easy to find supervision. but here on Kauai and the other islands, it's not so easy. The use of video technology for supervision widens the pool of possibilities for practitioners to get the guidance and support they need. I ask that you vote in favor of HB 2169HD1.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 7:40 AM  
To: CPCtestimony  
Cc: moniquey@hawaii.edu  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2169 on Feb 24, 2016 14:05PM

**HB2169**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 24, 2016 14:05PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monique Yamashita	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a soon to be Masters in Social Work Program graduate of the UH Manoa School of Social Work I am in strong support of its passage. Licensed and Licensed Clinical Social Workers provide integral services to many of our department, agencies and individuals in need. SB2269/HB2169 provides much needed clarification to wording in HRS 467E-7 which will greatly ease the licensure process for the DCCA. The housekeeping measure also provides important clarification to supervision provided in person or through video conferencing. This will allow more neighbor island and rural O'ahu social workers to obtain clinical supervision. This critical as rural areas have a shortage of licensed professionals able to provide face to face supervision. Your support of this housekeeping measure is appreciated. Thank you for your time and consideration. Monique R. Yamashita

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