

March 28, 2016

LATE

TO: Sen. Roz Baker, Chair, Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 9:00 am, Conference room 229

FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW

RE: HB 2169 HD2 Relating to Social Workers

WRITTEN TESTIMONY in SUPPORT

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health. I am testifying in support of HB 2169 HD2 Relating to Social Workers including amendments provided by NASW.

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 HD2 will help us do that. I also support the amendments NASW is providing that will assist DCCA to implement the changes to the social work licensing statute.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

LATE

TO: The Hawai'i State House of Representatives Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Re: HB 2169

To: The Honorable Representative Rosalyn H. Baker and the members of the committee.

Aloha.

My name is Larmont Andre Giles. I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and I strongly support HB 2169 that seeks to ameliorate many of the challenges that social workers face in meeting their licensed clinical social work requirements, especially for current, and prospective social workers intending to practice on less populated islands. Face-to-face meeting requirements for this population can become extremely taxing, while being perceived and presenting as an unnecessary and useless burden. Today's technology (e.g., blackboard, Skype, and Telehealth Videoconferencing) offers more than adequate avenues for supervision requirements to be fulfilled. By passing this bill you will be taking a big step in eliminating a preventable burden imposed on this invaluable and precious professional resource of the Hawaiian community.

Mahalo
Larmont Andre Giles

baker1 - Chris

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 7:36 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: tarama@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2169 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM



HB2169

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tarama M. Fuatagavi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To the Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, and the Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health; and to Senators Will Espero, Russell E. Ruderman, Les Ihara Jr., Sam Slom, and Clarence K. Nishihara, thank you for your time to consider my humble testimony in support of HB 2169 HD2. As a Licensed Social Worker in pursuit of my LCSW credential, I fully support any measure that would allow social workers to utilize and leverage technology in order to obtain the supervision hours required by law, in order to be eligible to test for a higher professional credential. In a day and age where technology has advanced such that Face-time, Skype, and video conferencing has become common place, not only does it make sense, but we can act on this now so that all social workers (especially those in rural communities) can be able to have access to LCSW's providing supervision, across the State without being limited to willing LCSW's in their community. I support this bill because it appears to be the only measure that has the potential to move forward and time is of the essence. We live in an ever changing society filled with conflicts both at home and abroad. The need for skilled LCSW's post conflict is necessary in my opinion to help restore harmony to those in need. My only concern regarding this bill is the "director" of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) will have broad authority to establish "adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to set forth, clarify, and describe acceptable requirements that outline parameters, limitations, or prohibitions for supervision requirements for licensure of clinical social workers, including the criteria for supervision by videoconferencing or other electronic means as determined by the director." (HB 2169HD2) I would like to see wording that requires the director of the DCCA to consult with and have the full support of the director of NASW Hawaii or other experts in the social work field before establishing rules and requirements for our profession. This would help to prevent any future misinterpretations of the intent of the statute and allow experts in the profession of social work to have input into the rule making process for our profession. Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that you agree that the time is now to allow the use of technology to be leveraged by social workers in pursuit of the highest credential in our profession, so that we may better serve our community. Sincerely, Tarama M. Fuatagavi, LSW

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.

Natasha Ariyoshi
Kailua, HI 96734
Natasha9@hawaii.edu

LATE

March 28, 2016

To: Representative Rosalyn H. Baker, Chairperson
Representative Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chairperson
And members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

From: Natasha Ariyoshi, MSW Candidate 2016

RE: HB 2169 HD2, Relating to Social Workers – STRONG SUPPORT
Public Hearing scheduled: 9:00 AM; March 29, 2016 (Conference Room 229)

Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health, I am testifying in *strong support* of HB 2169 HD2.

As a Masters student at the University of Hawai'i's Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, the passage of this bill will be integral to the forward progress needed to provide the community with licensed and licensed clinical social workers. At this point in time, supervision in rural areas (where licensed social workers are greatly needed) is lacking. 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.

The use of technology to further the therapeutic process is more widely accepted as we have moved into a technologically advanced social climate. This bill will allow the social work community to embrace this technology to effectively and efficiently equip our professionals with the supervision hours they need in a cost and time effective manner.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this measure.

Sincerely,
Natasha Ariyoshi