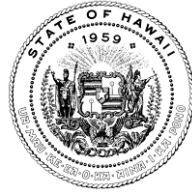


# SB2669

Measure Title:	RELATING TO SOCIAL WORKERS.
Report Title:	Social Workers; Licensed Clinical Social Workers; Licensing Requirements; Supervision
Description:	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-certified video conferencing service.
Companion:	<a href="#">HB2169</a>
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH
Introducer(s):	BAKER, CHUN OAKLAND, GALUTERIA, HARIMOTO, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI, NISHIHARA, Inouye, Tokuda



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2016

Wednesday, February 17, 2016  
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2669, RELATING TO SOCIAL WORKERS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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 Senate Bill No. 2669, Relating to Social Workers.

Senate Bill No. 2669 revises the supervision requirements for the licensure of clinical social workers by deleting the requirement of direct face-to-face individualized supervision, and replacing it with supervision that may be face-to-face or via a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act-certified (“HIPAA-certified”) 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.

Regarding the language in the bill that would provide for face-to-face or HIPAA-certified 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 line 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 Senate Bill No. 2669.



Date: February 11, 2016

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair

**The National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter (NASW) strongly supports Senate Bill 2669, relating to social workers, with an amendment.**

- 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.

**We would like to suggest the following amendment:**

**Page 6, line 1, the addition of the word "assessment" after "review of".**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonja Bigalke-Bannan, MSW, LSW". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sonja Bigalke-Bannan, MSW, LSW  
Executive Director  
National Association of Social Workers, Hawai'i Chapter

Senators Baker, Chun Oakland, Galuteria, Harimoto, Kieth-Agaran, Kidani, Nishihara, Inouye, Tokuda , Thank you for introducing this important housekeeping measure. I am strongly in support of it's passage.

As LCSW's we provide a very important roles in proving services to the communities in need. SB 2269/HB2169 provides a much needed clarification to the wording in HRS 467E-7 which will help in the processing of licensure for the DCCA. It will provide important clarification to supervision provided in person or through video conferencing. This will allow social workers from rural communities and outer Islands to obtain clinical supervision. There are not much Licensed Clinical Supervisors available in the agencies that these social workers are working with, especially those who are in the rural areas to provide face to face supervision.

Your support of these housekeeping measure is greatly appreciated.

February 16, 2016

Re: **Support to S.B. 2669**, Relating to Social Workers; Licensed Clinical Social Workers;  
Licensing Requirements; Supervision

Dear Senators and Committee,

I am currently in my third and final year in the Master of Social Work Program through the University of Hawaii at Manoa Distance Education Program. My concentration focuses on Child & Family.

As Social Workers, Licensing requirements of becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) has caught our attention due to the fact that LCSW's in rural areas, less population and within the Veterans Affairs find it difficult to find required face-to-face supervision.

Therefore on behalf my social work colleagues throughout the State of Hawaii. I want to take this time to voice my strong **support for S.B. 2669**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo & Sincerely,

Jon Keali'i Inciong  
MSW Distance Education Student  
Maui, MSW DE Cohort 5

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kristiis@hawaii.edu](mailto:kristiis@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2669 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 10:16:06 AM

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**SB2669**

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lauren22@hawaii.edu](mailto:lauren22@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2669 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 8:41:18 AM

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**SB2669**

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lauren Howerton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As an MSW student on the outer islands I have often considered how I will receive my LCSW licensing supervision hours, there are only a few supervisors on Maui and even fewer elsewhere. The ability to complete supervision hours via video conference would be beneficial to myself and many of my classmates in the UH Manoa School of Social Work Distance Education program. Thank you.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rdimaui@gmail.com](mailto:rdimaui@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2669 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 8:30:55 AM

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**SB2669**

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lauren Wilson	Individual	Support	No

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

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To: Senators BAKER, CHUN OAKLAND, GALUTERIA, HARIMOTO, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI, NISHIHARA, Inouye, Tokuda

RELATING TO SOCIAL WORKERS.

Social Workers; Licensed Clinical Social Workers; Licensing Requirements; Supervision

I am in strong support of its passage with amendments. Firstly, I would like to see a cap of the amount that a supervising LCSW can charge to a supervisee.

I feel that this measure will ensure that “brain drain” is prevented and help to keep those seeking a LCSW from moving out of state to obtain licensure. More than likely, once they are licensed, they will not come back to Hawaii.W

Your support of this housekeeping measure is appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*✂ Sharon K. Usagawa MSW, DCSW, LCSW ✂*  
970 N. Kalaheo Avenue Suite C201 Kailua, Hawaii 96734  
ph: 808-386-8523 email: skulcsw@aol.com

February 16, 2016

Thank you to Senators Baker, Chun - Oakland, Galuteria, Harimoto, Keith - Agaran, Kidani, Nishihara, Inouye, Tokuda for introducing this important housekeeping measure. I am in strong support of its passage.

Licensed and Licensed Clinical Social Workers provide integral services to many of our departments, community 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.

As an LCSW, I have personally confronted conflicting answers to the provision of supervision hours for Licensure Candidates that are employed in a setting without a Licensed Clinical Professional available on-site to provide them supervision. This revision will provide valuable and necessary clarification to make Licensure at the Clinical level more accessible and in turn create a higher level of professionalism, which then ultimately benefits the consumer.

Your support of this housekeeping measure is appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

*Sharon K. Usagawa LCSW*

Sharon K. Usagawa LCSW  
808-386-8523