

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 467
RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK

by
Tommy Johnson, Director

House Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair

Friday, February 3, 2023; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 430 and Via Video Conference

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **opposes** House Bill (HB) 467, which requires PSD and the Department of Human Services to develop a social work training program as a pathway for incarcerated individuals to work as assistants to licensed social workers.

PSD respectfully recommends that alternative initiatives be considered, such as allocating additional funds and resources to the colleges within the State of Hawai'i to increase their capacity for any interested individuals to obtain a professional degree in social work, or to obtain a course certificate as a para-professional social service assistant.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 467.



LATE

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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NADINE Y. ANDO
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DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
House Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans
Friday, February 3, 2023
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 430 and Videoconference

On the following measure:
H.B. 467, RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK

Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rochelle Araki, and I am the Executive Officer of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (Division) Social Worker Licensing Program (Program). The Department offers comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to require: (1) the Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, to develop and establish a social work training program to assist nonviolent incarcerated individuals in exploring a professional pathway in social work and becoming eligible to work as assistants to licensed social workers; and (2) the Department of Public Safety and Department of Human Services to jointly submit a report of the departments' progress in developing and establishing the social work training program to the Legislature no later than the twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2024 and 2025.

While the Department appreciates the intent of this measure, the Department would like to ensure that any individual exploring a professional pathway in the practice of social work also comply with Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 467E. HRS chapter 467E sets forth, among other things, the requirements to be issued a license to practice social work in the State of Hawaii, as well as specific prohibited acts in connection with the use of the title of social worker with a person's name.

For the Committee's information, HRS section 467E-7 sets forth the license requirements for licensed social workers in the State, including education, examination, and experience requirements, and HRS section 467E-13 sets forth prohibited acts and penalties. HRS section 467E-13 states, in relevant part, that:

- (a) No person shall:
 - (1) Use in connection with the person's name any designation tending to imply that the person is a social worker, licensed bachelor social worker, licensed social worker, or licensed clinical social worker unless the person is duly licensed and authorized under this chapter; and
 - (2) Represent oneself as a social worker, licensed bachelor social worker, licensed social worker, or licensed clinical social worker during the time the person's license issued under this chapter is forfeited, terminated, suspended, or revoked.
- (b) Any person who violates this section shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 and each day's violation shall be deemed a separate offense.

Any person engaged in the practice of social work, unless specifically exempted from licensure pursuant to HRS section 467E-6, is subject to licensure by the Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



To: Committee on Corrections, Military and Veterans

Hearing Date/Time: Friday February 3, 2023 9am

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 467 with comments

From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Dear Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Aiu, and Members of the Committee

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) supports HB 467 which would provide funds to implement a pilot program with the Dept. of Public Safety (soon to be Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation) to provide workforce training to support non-violent incarcerated individuals in potentially stating a career path toward social services.

HHHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

HHHRC respectfully adds comments that if this pilot is passed, that this program be in collaboration with UH and/or HPU since both have robust social work programs and to also not limit this training to social work, since the path to being a social worker is long and there may be other paraprofessionals (such as peer specialists, community health workers etc) that may benefit from this training.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair

Friday, February 3, 2023 - 9:00am - via videoconference – Rm 430

Testimony in Support for HB467 RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK

The National Association of Social Workers – Hawai'i (NASW- HI) supports HB467, which would require the Departments of Public Safety and Human Services to coordinate to establish a program to train nonviolent, incarcerated individuals in the area of social work.

NASW-HI greatly appreciates the spirit and intent of this measure, which would encourage nonviolent incarcerated individuals, with valuable life experience interfacing with social service organizations, to train and pursue employment opportunities in the area of social work, once released.

However, we wish to highlight that a license in social work - requiring a masters degree including practicum experience, as well as a licensure exam, cannot be accomplished via apprenticeship through this program.

To better understand the distinction between working in “the area of social work” and the “Practice of Social Work,” this description adopted by the NASW is helpful:

Social work practice consists of the professional application of social work values, principles, and techniques to one or more of the following ends: helping people obtain tangible services; counseling and psychotherapy with individuals, families, and groups; helping communities or groups provide or improve social and health services; and participating in legislative processes. The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behavior; of social, economic, and cultural institutions; and of the interaction of all these factors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support.

Sincerely,

, MSW, LCSW

Sonja Bigalke-Bannan, MSW, LCSW

Executive Director,

National Association of Social Workers- Hawai'i Chapter

HB-467

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:40:49 AM

Testimony for CMV on 2/3/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is facing a shortage of social workers to help individuals in the state manage their mental health and cope with stressors in their everyday lives. This shortage is concerning since social workers already have full caseloads and may be unable to provide additional services, which may in turn intensify the need for help and increase burnout among social workers. The demand for social workers will likely continue to rise, especially during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and its aftermath, because individuals experiencing depression, anxiety, life transitions, and other mental health challenges will need social workers' support to address difficult or stressful life situations.

To address the shortage of social workers and lack of social services in the state, providing social work training to nonviolent incarcerated individuals may help these individuals reintegrate into society once their period of incarceration is over. Please support HB467.

HB-467

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:55:01 AM

Testimony for CMV on 2/3/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom a Kanaka Maoli.

I'm writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB467.

Hawai'i is facing a shortage of social workers to help individuals in the state manage their mental health and cope with stressors in their everyday lives. This shortage is concerning since social workers already have full caseloads and may be unable to provide additional services, which may in turn intensify the need for help and increase burnout among social workers.

The demand for social workers will likely continue to rise, especially during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and its aftermath, because individuals experiencing depression, anxiety, life transitions, and other mental health challenges will need social workers' support to address difficult or stressful life situations.

To address the shortage of social workers and lack of social services in the state, providing social work training to nonviolent incarcerated individuals may help these individuals reintegrate into society once their period of incarceration is over. Please support HB467.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili

LATE

HB-467

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:40:23 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/3/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i is facing a shortage of social workers to help individuals in the state manage their mental health and cope with stressors in their everyday lives. This shortage is concerning since social workers already have full caseloads and may be unable to provide additional services, which may in turn intensify the need for help and increase burnout among social workers.

The demand for social workers will likely continue to rise, especially during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and its aftermath, because individuals experiencing depression, anxiety, life transitions, and other mental health challenges will need social workers' support to address difficult or stressful life situations.

To address the shortage of social workers and lack of social services in the state, providing social work training to nonviolent incarcerated individuals may help these individuals reintegrate into society once their period of incarceration is over. Please support HB467.