
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, HAWAII CHAPTER, TO DEVELOP CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS.

1 WHEREAS, the profession of social work provides critically
2 needed services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to a
3 broad spectrum of clients; and

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5 WHEREAS, it is vitally important that social workers
6 provide the best possible service to their clients; and

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8 WHEREAS, continuing education is essential to help social
9 workers maintain their professional competency and keep abreast
10 of the latest developments in their profession; and

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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of only three states that do not
13 require continuing education credits as part of their licensing
14 law for social workers; and

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16 WHEREAS, the National Association of Social Workers is a
17 membership organization that represents approximately 145,000
18 social workers across the nation, and the Hawaii chapter
19 represents about 900 social workers across the state; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is
22 charged with protecting consumers through its regulatory and
23 licensing responsibilities; and

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25 WHEREAS, the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii
26 Chapter, and Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs are
27 currently working together on specific provisions to be included
28 in a bill to establish continuing education requirements for
29 licensed social workers; and



1 WHEREAS, the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii
2 Chapter, and Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs have
3 also identified issues relevant to the requirement for
4 continuing education for licensed social workers, such as:

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6 (1) Ensuring that such requirements do not impose an undue
7 burden on social work in rural areas of Hawaii;
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9 (2) Using an established, widely recognized non-
10 governmental entity to approve continuing education
11 credits; and
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13 (3) Ensuring that the program to implement and monitor
14 continuing education credits for licensed social
15 workers is cost-neutral to the State; and
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17 WHEREAS, there are currently opportunities offered by
18 approved providers for continuing education statewide, including
19 in rural areas, such as through in-person courses, webinars, and
20 teleconferences; and
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22 WHEREAS, continuing education opportunities should be made
23 available both to members and non-members of the National
24 Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter; and
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26 WHEREAS, the joint effort of the Department of Commerce and
27 Consumer Affairs and National Association of Social Workers,
28 Hawaii Chapter, is critical in increasing and maintaining the
29 professional competence of licensed social workers in Hawaii
30 through a continuing education program; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
34 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Commerce
35 and Consumer Affairs and National Association of Social Workers,
36 Hawaii Chapter, are urged to continue collaborating on the issue
37 of developing, including implementing and monitoring, continuing
38 education requirements for all licensed social workers in
39 Hawaii; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at least twenty days prior to
42 the Regular Session of 2013, the Department of Commerce and
43 Consumer Affairs and the National Association of Social Workers,
44 Hawaii Chapter, are requested to submit to the Legislature a



1 proposed draft for a bill to establish, implement, and monitor
2 continuing education requirements for all licensed social
3 workers in Hawaii; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce
7 and Consumer Affairs and President of the National Association
8 of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 13 2012

