

MAR 14 2012

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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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

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31           WHEREAS, the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii  
32 Chapter, and Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs have



1 also identified issues relevant to the requirement for  
2 continuing education for licensed social workers, such as:

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- 4 (1) Ensuring that such requirements do not impose an undue  
5 burden on social work in rural areas of Hawaii;
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  - 7 (2) Using an established, widely recognized non-  
8 governmental entity to approve continuing education  
9 credits; and
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  - 11 (3) Ensuring that the program to implement and monitor  
12 continuing education credits for licensed social  
13 workers is cost-neutral to the State; and
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15 WHEREAS, there are currently opportunities offered by  
16 approved providers for continuing education statewide, including  
17 in rural areas, such as through in-person courses, webinars, and  
18 teleconferences; and

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20 WHEREAS, continuing education opportunities should be made  
21 available both to members and non-members of the National  
22 Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter; and

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24 WHEREAS, the joint effort of the Department of Commerce and  
25 Consumer Affairs and National Association of Social Workers,  
26 Hawaii Chapter, is critical in increasing and maintaining the  
27 professional competence of licensed social workers in Hawaii  
28 through a continuing education program; now, therefore,

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,  
32 that the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and  
33 National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter, are  
34 urged to continue collaborating on the issue of developing,  
35 including implementing and monitoring, continuing education  
36 requirements for all licensed social workers in Hawaii; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at least twenty days prior to  
39 the Regular Session of 2013, the Department of Commerce and  
40 Consumer Affairs and the National Association of Social Workers,  
41 Hawaii Chapter, are requested to submit to the Legislature a  
42 proposed draft for a bill to establish, implement, and monitor  
43 continuing education requirements for all licensed social  
44 workers in Hawaii; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and  
3 Consumer Affairs and President of the National Association of  
4 Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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