

LATE

Leimomi Devenport  
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02/16/2016

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

From: Leimomi Devenport

RE: SB2669, Relating to SOCIAL WORKERS – SUPPORT

Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of SB2669.

My name is Leimomi Devenport and I am a Master's student from the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Manoa. I will be graduating this May, and am looking at job opportunities outside of Oahu to work with some of our underserved populations on the outer islands.

One of the struggles that I will face if this bill does not pass is that I may have difficulty finding someone to provide supervision for me as I work towards getting my clinical license. It is crucial for practitioners to receive proper supervision to ensure that clients are properly served. The current face-to-face requirement for supervision makes it challenging, if not impossible, to receive supervision for those who practice in rural areas, which are some of the areas most needing social work services.

It is also important that practitioners are encouraged to obtain higher education and their clinical licenses. Just as reducing barriers to services help people get connected to the services and information they need, reducing barriers to obtaining supervision will help increase social work practitioners' ability to obtain clinical licensure. Better access to supervision, allows for increased practitioners obtaining licensure. This betters the social work profession here in Hawaii, and allows us to remain competitive with our mainland counterparts.

I am in support of SB2669 and request that you also support the passing of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Leimomi Devenport, BSW

Date: February 16, 2016

**To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

**S.B. NO. 2669** Social Workers; Licensed Clinical Social Workers; Licensing Requirements; Supervision

Public hearing on 02-17-16 9:00AM in conference room 229

**Introduction:** My name is Lisa Chilson-McCraw. I am currently a junior at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Today I will testify on behalf of measure S.B. NO. 2669. I am in support of this measure that will clarify the supervision requirements for licensure of clinical social workers, which would include permitting the supervision requirements to be met via a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act-certified video conferencing service.

Becoming a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) is my dream and long term professional goal. Because the state of Hawai'i is considered rural it is often difficult to find face-to-face supervision, particularly for those working on some of our less populated islands. These neighbor islands are where I plan to practice as a LCSW and areas of which many in my cohort plan to return back to after completing their studies. The passing of this Bill is not only important on a personal level but it will also contribute to the advancement of the social work profession, which ultimately benefits the people of Hawai'i, by helping the marginalized and vulnerable in our society on the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

**Closing:** Permitting the use of video conferencing to meet licensure requirements would enable our profession to utilize the advances in technology that are widely used by many other professions today. Senate Bill 2669 is a necessary step in the right direction.

Lisa Chilson-McCraw  
Social work student UHM

baker2 - Lia/Eve

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 7:21 AM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** eddie.mersereau@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2669 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2669**

Submitted on: 2/17/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Mersereau	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Madam Chair, Madam Vice-Chair and committee members. Thank you for taking the time to hear this bill. I regret that my work schedule impedes my ability to testify in person today. I am in strong support of this measure. As the outgoing chapter president of the Hawaii chapter of social workers, I feel it is vital to expand the ability for Licensed social workers to provide supervision to those working toward licensure and to clarify language in the law regarding methods that may be used to conduct supervision. Licensure for social workers is paramount in maintaining high standards of competence and effectiveness among social workers who provide vital social service care in our community. Social workers who are seeking licensure, particularly on the neighbor islands find it difficult to connect with Licensed Social workers to complete the required supervision needed to obtain a license. The proposed amendments would address this need and by extension increase the number of Licensed social workers in our community. Thank you again for your willingness to hear this bill and for your continued support. Edward Mersereau LCSW, CSAC

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**baker2 - Lia/Eve**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 4:52 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** hchoe@Hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2669 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2669**

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helen Choe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a student in the University of Hawaii at Manoa MSW program, I fully support this bill.

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**baker2 - Lia/Eve**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 5:39 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** chrismcconnell85@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2669 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2669**

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris McConnell	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/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 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.

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**baker3 - James**

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**From:** Donna lucero <kuponomaui@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 4:29 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2669; Wednesday, February 17, 2016 9:00AM Conference Room 229

**Categories:** Late

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 Clinical Social workers provide integral and specialized services to individuals and families in need through government agencies, health care facilities, educational systems, social service organizations and many other types of settings. 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. Living in a rural community on the Island of Maui, this will increase access to licensed professionals to provide face-to-face supervision. In addition, after licensure, I hope this will allow for more specialized training without the additional travel and lodging cost for Continuing Education Units.

Your support of this housekeeping measure is appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Submitted by, Donna Lucero, MSW, CSAC

Individual

Comments Only

Will not be present at hearing

**baker3 - James**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 4:11 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** Holly00000@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2669 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM

**Categories:** Late

**SB2669**

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Holly Baker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha- Here on The Big Island we have a limited number of people who have the credentials that are needed so that we the new MSW's are able to get our hours. With the passage of this Bill it would allow us in rural areas the ability to be licensed to help others. I support the passage of this bill. Mahalo for your time, Holly Baker

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 1:56 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** berniestrand\_llc@msn.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2669 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM

**Categories:** Late

**SB2669**

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bernice Strand	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Greetings: I support HB2669, regarding supervision for social workers in Hawaii. The need for supervision by mental health practitioners seeking licensure who also live in rural areas or on the neighbor islands has created unnecessary hardship on those who seek to advance their knowledge, experience, and credentials in the field of social work. I would also like to advocate that special exception be provided on SECTION 2, (3) (c), line 5 for social workers who are Veterans, Service Members, and their Family (SMVF) members who often struggle to meet the supervision restrictions tied to accumulating sufficient supervision hours "within no more than five years". This limitation presents undue hardship to SMVF whose first priority may be serving our country, as dependents supporting a loved one who experiences multiple changes in duty assignment, or who may require special consideration related to their status as a Veteran. I recommend current language be retained, but with addition language similar (or simplified) indicating the following caveat, "exception being provided to Veterans, Service Members, and their family members who may request extension to the limit of five years, with written statement detailing the reason for the request for extension and verified by written statement from the applicant's current supervisor." Thank you for your consideration. Bernice Strand, LCSW

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 1:50 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2669 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM

**Categories:** Late

**SB2669**

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John A. H. Tomoso	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha kakou, As A Social Worker in practice since 1977 and in licensed practice since 1995, I support this measure which essentially opens up supervision, for licensing purposes, in a more effective and efficient way, with confidentiality and security protocols/ processes in place, and with greater access by professional seeking Social Work Licensure. Mahalo John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW 51 Ku'ula St. Kahului, HI 96732-2906

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