
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Act 14, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006 (Act 14),
2 was enacted to amend the definition of the "practice of mental
3 health counseling" by clarifying that professional counseling
4 services are determined by the specialized education, training,
5 and experience that a practitioner has completed. In addition,
6 Act 14 sets terms and conditions for interns and post-graduate
7 work.

8 The purpose of this Act is to clarify the requirements for
9 mental health counselor licensure by establishing that those
10 persons who applied to the department after July 1, 2005, and
11 graduated from an accredited program before July 1, 2007, may be
12 eligible for licensure.

13 SECTION 2. Section 453D-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "**§453D-7 Application for licensure as a mental health**
16 **counselor.** (a) Any person who applies to the department after
17 July 1, 2005, and who graduated after July 1, 2007, from an



1 accredited program as specified in paragraph (1), shall be
2 issued a license by the department if the applicant provides
3 satisfactory evidence to the department that the applicant is
4 qualified for licensure pursuant to the requirements of this
5 chapter and meets the following qualifications:

6 (1) A master's degree or doctoral degree from an
7 accredited educational institution in counseling or in
8 an allied field related to the practice of mental
9 health counseling that includes or is supplemented by
10 graduate level course work in counseling comprising a
11 minimum of forty-eight semester hours or seventy-two
12 quarter hours in the following course areas, with a
13 minimum of three semester hours or five quarter hours
14 in each course area as indicated below:

15 (A) Human growth and development, including but not
16 limited to the study of life span development,
17 strategies to facilitate that development and
18 transitions, theories of learning and personality
19 development, and human behavior to include
20 crisis, disabilities, addictive behavior, and
21 environmental factors;



1 (B) Social and cultural foundations, including but
2 not limited to the study of issues and trends in
3 a multicultural and diverse society, including
4 characteristics of diverse groups that may
5 include but are not limited to age, race,
6 religious or sexual preference, physical
7 disability, ethnicity and culture, gender,
8 socioeconomics, intellectual ability, and
9 individual, family, and group strategies with
10 diverse populations;

11 (C) Counseling theories and applications, including
12 but not limited to counseling and consultation,
13 including both individual and systems
14 perspectives, interviewing, assessment, and
15 counseling skills, as well as applying
16 principles, methods, and theories of counseling,
17 treatment and counseling of mental and emotional
18 disorders, and educational techniques aimed at
19 preventing such disorders with individuals and
20 families;

21 (D) Group theory and practice, including but not
22 limited to principles of group dynamics, group



1 process, group leadership styles, theories and
2 methods of group counseling, and the application
3 of theory to the group processes;

4 (E) Career and lifestyle development, including but
5 not limited to the study of vocational
6 development theories and decisionmaking models,
7 assessment instruments, and techniques, types,
8 sources, and uses of occupational and educational
9 information systems, career development
10 applications, and career counseling processes,
11 techniques, and resources;

12 (F) Appraisal of human behavior, including but not
13 limited to assessment and diagnosis of disorders
14 with an emphasis on DSM-IV categories, and an
15 understanding of these disorders relative to the
16 counseling context;

17 (G) Tests and measurements, including but not limited
18 to theoretical and historical bases for
19 assessment techniques, assessment methods,
20 including analysis of various types of tests in
21 order to select, administer, interpret, and use



1 assessment and evaluation instruments and
2 techniques in counseling;

3 (H) Research and program evaluation, including but
4 not limited to research design and methods,
5 statistical analysis, principles, practices, and
6 application of needs assessment, and program
7 evaluation; and

8 (I) Professional orientation and ethics, including
9 but not limited to the history of the helping
10 profession, professional roles and functions,
11 ethical standards, confidentiality, professional
12 organizations, and the public policy process,
13 including advocacy on behalf of the profession
14 and its clientele;

15 (2) At least two academic terms of supervised mental
16 health practicum intern experience for graduate credit
17 of at least three semester hours or five quarter hours
18 per academic term in a mental health counseling
19 setting with three hundred hours of supervised client
20 contact; the practicum experience shall be completed
21 under the clinical supervision of a person who is
22 licensed as a mental health counselor, psychologist,



1 clinical social worker, advanced practice registered
2 nurse with a specialty in mental health, marriage and
3 family therapist, or physician with a specialty in
4 psychiatry;

- 5 (3) Completion of three thousand hours of post-graduate
6 experience in the practice of mental health counseling
7 with one hundred hours of face-to-face clinical
8 supervision [~~which~~] that shall be completed in no less
9 than two years and in no more than four years, under
10 the clinical supervision of a person who is a licensed
11 mental health counselor, psychologist, clinical social
12 worker, advanced practice registered nurse with a
13 specialty in mental health, marriage and family
14 therapist, or physician with a specialty in
15 psychiatry; and

- 16 (4) Passed the National Counselor Examination for
17 Licensure and Certification.

18 (b) An individual who:

- 19 (1) Holds current, unencumbered certification as a
20 national certified counselor or a national certified
21 rehabilitation counselor prior to [~~the effective date~~
22 ~~of this chapter,~~] July 1, 2005;



1 (2) Has passed the National Counselor Examination for
2 Licensure and Certification, National Clinical Mental
3 Health Counselors Examination of the National Board
4 for Certified Counselors, or Commission on
5 Rehabilitation Counselor Certification examination
6 after January 1, 2000, and before July 1, 2005; and

7 (3) Within one year of [~~the effective date of this~~
8 ~~chapter,~~] July 1, 2005, applies for licensure and pays
9 the applicable license fee, shall be deemed to have
10 met the requirements of this section.

11 (c) Any person who applies to the department after July 1,
12 2005, and who graduated before July 1, 2007, from an accredited
13 program as specified in paragraph (1), shall be issued a license
14 by the department if the applicant provides satisfactory
15 evidence to the department that the applicant is qualified for
16 licensure pursuant to the requirements of this chapter and meets
17 the following qualifications:

18 (1) A master's degree or doctoral degree from an
19 accredited educational institution in counseling or in
20 an allied field related to the practice of mental
21 health counseling that includes or is supplemented by



1 graduate level course work in counseling consistent
2 with the requirements of subsection (a)(1);

3 (2) At least two academic terms of supervised practicum
4 intern experience for graduate credit of at least
5 three semester hours or five quarter hours per
6 academic term in a counseling setting with at least
7 three hundred hours of supervised client contact;

8 (3) Completion of at least three thousand hours of post-
9 graduate experience in counseling with one hundred
10 hours of face-to-face clinical supervision over a
11 period of at least two years, and under the clinical
12 supervision of a person who holds an advanced degree
13 in counseling or a closely related field, including
14 social work, psychology, psychiatry, psychiatric
15 nursing, or marriage and family therapy; and

16 (4) Passed the National Counselor Examination for
17 Licensure and Certification."

18 SECTION 3. Section 26H-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 **"§26H-4 Repeal dates for newly enacted professional and**
21 **vocational regulatory programs. [-(a)-] Any professional or**
22 **vocational regulatory program enacted after January 1, 1994, and**



1 listed in this section shall be repealed on December 31, 2008.
 2 The auditor shall perform an evaluation of the program, pursuant
 3 to section 26H-5, prior to its repeal date[-

4 ~~(b) Chapter];~~ provided that chapter 453D (mental health
 5 counselors) shall not be repealed [~~on December 31, 2008~~]."

6 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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 JAN 23 2007



Report Title:

Mental Health Counselors; Licensing

Description:

Amends the mental health counselor licensure application date to include counselors who have completed or are in the process of completing the requirements for licensure before July 1, 2007. Repeals the sunset date on mental health counselor licensure.

