
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 based on the specialized education, training, and
5 experience that a practitioner has completed. In addition, Act
6 14 sets terms and conditions for interns and post-graduate work.

7 The purpose of this Act is to clarify the requirements for
8 mental health counselor licensure by providing an alternative
9 means of verifying the completion of the practicum intern and
10 post-graduate experience requirements for persons who graduated
11 from an accredited program before July 1, 2007.

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

14 **"§453D-7 Application for licensure as a mental health**
15 **counselor.** (a) [~~Any person who applies to the department after~~
16 ~~July 1, 2005,~~] An applicant shall be issued a license by the
17 department if the applicant provides satisfactory evidence to



1 the department that the applicant is qualified for licensure
2 pursuant to the requirements of this chapter and meets the
3 following qualifications:

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

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

20 (B) Social and cultural foundations, including but
21 not limited to the study of issues and trends in
22 a multicultural and diverse society, including



1 characteristics of diverse groups that may
2 include but are not limited to age, race,
3 religious or sexual preference, physical
4 disability, ethnicity and culture, gender,
5 socioeconomics, intellectual ability, and
6 individual, family, and group strategies with
7 diverse populations;

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

18 (D) Group theory and practice, including but not
19 limited to principles of group dynamics, group
20 process, group leadership styles, theories and
21 methods of group counseling, and the application
22 of theory to the group processes;



- 1 (E) Career and lifestyle development, including but
2 not limited to the study of vocational
3 development theories and decision-making models,
4 assessment instruments, and techniques, types,
5 sources, and uses of occupational and educational
6 information systems, career development
7 applications, and career counseling processes,
8 techniques, and resources;
- 9 (F) Appraisal of human behavior, including but not
10 limited to assessment and diagnosis of disorders
11 with an emphasis on DSM-IV categories, and an
12 understanding of these disorders relative to the
13 counseling context;
- 14 (G) Tests and measurements, including but not limited
15 to theoretical and historical bases for
16 assessment techniques, assessment methods,
17 including analysis of various types of tests [~~in~~
18 ~~order~~] to select, administer, interpret, and use
19 assessment and evaluation instruments and
20 techniques in counseling;
- 21 (H) Research and program evaluation, including but
22 not limited to research design and methods,



1 statistical analysis, principles, practices, and
2 application of needs assessment, and program
3 evaluation; and

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

11 (2) At least two academic terms of supervised mental
12 health practicum intern experience for graduate credit
13 of at least three semester hours or five quarter hours
14 per academic term in a mental health counseling
15 setting with three hundred hours of supervised client
16 contact; the practicum experience shall be completed
17 under the clinical supervision of a person who is
18 licensed as a mental health counselor, psychologist,
19 clinical social worker, advanced practice registered
20 nurse with a specialty in mental health, marriage and
21 family therapist, or physician with a specialty in
22 psychiatry;



- 1 (3) Completion of not less than three thousand hours of
2 post-graduate experience in the practice of mental
3 health counseling with one hundred hours of face-to-
4 face clinical supervision [~~which~~] that shall be
5 completed in no less than two years and in no more
6 than four years, under the clinical supervision of a
7 person who is a licensed mental health counselor,
8 psychologist, clinical social worker, advanced
9 practice registered nurse with a specialty in mental
10 health, marriage and family therapist, or physician
11 with a specialty in psychiatry; and
- 12 (4) Passed the National Counselor Examination for
13 Licensure and Certification.
- 14 (b) An individual who:
- 15 (1) Holds current, unencumbered certification as a
16 national certified counselor or a national certified
17 rehabilitation counselor prior to the effective date
18 of this chapter;
- 19 (2) Has passed the National Counselor Examination for
20 Licensure and Certification, National Clinical Mental
21 Health Counselors Examination of the National Board
22 for Certified Counselors, or Commission on



1 Rehabilitation Counselor Certification examination
2 after January 1, 2000, and before July 1, 2005; and

3 (3) Within one year of the effective date of this chapter,
4 applies for licensure and pays the applicable license
5 fee, shall be deemed to have met the requirements of
6 this section.

7 (c) For an applicant who graduated from an accredited
8 educational institution as specified in subsection (a)(1) before
9 July 1, 2007, the department shall also deem acceptable:

10 (1) For practicum intern experience, written certification
11 from an official of the institution of higher
12 education attesting that the applicant has completed
13 the academic terms, graduate credit hours, and
14 supervised client contact hours in subsection (a)(2)
15 and that the applicant's practicum intern experience
16 is equivalent to a mental health graduate level
17 practicum program; and

18 (2) For post-graduate experience, written certification
19 from an officer and the clinical supervisor of the
20 agency at which the applicant has earned experience
21 attesting that the applicant has completed the hours
22 of experience and supervision in subsection (a)(3)



1 within the time frame set forth in that subsection,
2 and that the applicant's post-graduate experience is
3 equivalent to the practice of mental health
4 counseling.

5 The license requirements for clinical supervisors under
6 subsections (a)(2) and (a)(3) shall not apply to this
7 subsection."

8 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



S.B. NO. 667
S.D. 3
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

Report Title:

Mental Health Counselors; Licensing

Description:

Amends the mental health counselor licensure law to allow practicum intern and post-graduate experience to be supervised and verified by certain individuals other than licensed professionals, for applicants who graduated from an accredited program prior to July 1, 2007. (CD1)

