
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,~~] An applicant shall be issued a license by the



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

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

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

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



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

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

19 (D) Group theory and practice, including but not
20 limited to principles of group dynamics, group
21 process, group leadership styles, theories and



1 methods of group counseling, and the application
2 of theory to the group processes;

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

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

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



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

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

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



- 1 family therapist, or physician with a specialty in
2 psychiatry;
- 3 (3) Completion of three thousand hours of post-graduate
4 experience in the practice of mental health counseling
5 with one hundred hours of face-to-face clinical
6 supervision [~~which~~] that shall be completed in no less
7 than two years and in no more than four years, under
8 the clinical supervision of a person who is a licensed
9 mental health counselor, psychologist, clinical social
10 worker, advanced practice registered nurse with a
11 specialty in mental health, marriage and family
12 therapist, or physician with a specialty in
13 psychiatry; and
- 14 (4) Passed the National Counselor Examination for
15 Licensure and Certification.
- 16 (b) An individual who:
- 17 (1) Holds current, unencumbered certification as a
18 national certified counselor or a national certified
19 rehabilitation counselor prior to the effective date
20 of this chapter;
- 21 (2) Has passed the National Counselor Examination for
22 Licensure and Certification, National Clinical Mental



1 Health Counselors Examination of the National Board
2 for Certified Counselors, or Commission on
3 Rehabilitation Counselor Certification examination
4 after January 1, 2000, and before July 1, 2005; and

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

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

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

20 (2) For post-graduate experience, written certification
21 from an officer of the employing agency and the
22 clinical supervisor attesting that the applicant has



1 completed the required hours of experience within the
2 time set forth in subsection (a)(3), and that the
3 applicant's completion of the post-graduate experience
4 is equivalent to the practice of mental health
5 counseling."

6 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



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.
(SD1)

