
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ACUPUNCTURE PRACTITIONERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 436E-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§436E-13 Use of titles. (a) A licensee who has been
4 awarded a license to practice acupuncture by the board in this
5 State may use the title of "Licensed Acupuncturist" or
6 designation "L.Ac." with the licensee's name in an advertisement
7 for acupuncture or announce or append the designation to the
8 licensee's name.

9 (b) A licensee who has been awarded an earned doctoral
10 degree may use the designation "Ph.D." in an advertisement for
11 acupuncture or announce or append the designation to the
12 licensee's name if the degree was granted from a university or
13 college recognized by a regional or national accrediting body
14 recognized by the United States Department of Education. A
15 Ph.D. recognized by the board under this subsection shall
16 designate a nonpractitioner as opposed to a practitioner or
17 "doctor" of acupuncture as provided in subsection (c).



1 (c) ~~[A licensee who has been awarded an earned doctoral~~
2 ~~degree from a university or college recognized by a regional or~~
3 ~~national accrediting body recognized by the United States~~
4 ~~Department of Education, or who has completed a program approved~~
5 ~~by the board in the study or practice of acupuncture~~
6 ~~(traditional oriental medicine), and who has met the standards~~
7 ~~for the use of academic designations as developed by the board~~
8 ~~may use the designation "Doctor", the prefix "Dr.", or the~~
9 ~~designation "D.Ac."; provided that the word "Acupuncturist"~~
10 ~~immediately follows the licensee's name if the designation~~
11 ~~"Doctor" or the prefix "Dr." is used alone. The board shall~~
12 ~~establish the standards required for the use of these academic~~
13 ~~designations in its rules. The rules shall provide for a time~~
14 ~~period to enable a licensee to meet the requirements for the~~
15 ~~continued use of the academic designations and shall prohibit~~
16 ~~the use of the designations after that period unless those~~
17 ~~requirements are met.] A licensee who has been approved by the~~
18 ~~board to use the doctoral title may use the title "Doctor of~~
19 ~~Acupuncture" or the designation "D.Ac.", after the licensee's~~
20 ~~name, or the term "Doctor" or the prefix "Dr.", provided that~~
21 ~~the word "Acupuncturist" immediately follows the licensee's name~~
22 ~~if the term "Doctor", or the prefix "Dr." is used alone.~~



1 (d) Before any licensee shall be eligible to use the
2 doctoral title, the licensee shall furnish satisfactory proof
3 to the board that the licensee has been awarded an earned
4 doctoral degree. For licensees who graduated from an institute,
5 school, or college located in the United States or any territory
6 under the jurisdiction of the United States, the institute,
7 school, or college shall be recognized by a regional or national
8 accrediting body that is recognized by the United States
9 Department of Education.

10 For licensees who graduated from a foreign institute,
11 school, or college, the licensee, at the licensee's own expense,
12 shall have the licensee's transcripts and curriculum evaluated
13 by a board-approved and board-designated professional evaluator
14 who shall determine whether:

15 (1) The transcripts and curriculum are at least equivalent
16 to the United States recognized doctoral program of
17 study;

18 (2) The foreign institute, school, or college is licensed,
19 approved, or accredited by the appropriate
20 governmental authority or an agency recognized by a
21 governmental authority in the respective foreign
22 jurisdiction; and



1 (3) The curriculum of the foreign institute, school, or
2 college is approved by the board.

3 [~~d~~] (e) Except as provided in this section, use of other
4 titles, prefixes, or designations shall not be permitted."

5 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

8

INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 27 2010



Report Title:

Acupuncturists; Title

Description:

Establishes requirements for acupuncturists to use the "doctor of acupuncture" title. Establishes procedure for review of doctoral education credentials of acupuncturist completing education at a foreign institution.

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