

SB 2647

HD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the current
2 educational requirements for application for licensure as a
3 mental health counselor are overly specific, which has prevented
4 some otherwise qualified individuals from gaining licensure.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to amend the
6 practicum experience qualifications for licensure as a mental
7 health counselor to accommodate different coursework structures,
8 while ensuring the overall educational requirements remain at an
9 appropriate level.

10 SECTION 2. Section 453D-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

12 "(a) An applicant shall be issued a license by the
13 department if the applicant provides satisfactory evidence to
14 the department that the applicant is qualified for licensure
15 pursuant to the requirements of this chapter and meets the
16 following qualifications:



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

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

17 (B) Social and cultural foundations, including but
18 not limited to the study of issues and trends in
19 a multicultural and diverse society, including
20 characteristics of diverse groups that may
21 include but are not limited to age, race,



1 religious or sexual preference, physical
2 disability, ethnicity and culture, gender,
3 socioeconomics, intellectual ability, and
4 individual, family, and group strategies with
5 diverse populations;

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

16 (D) Group theory and practice, including but not
17 limited to principles of group dynamics, group
18 process, group leadership styles, theories and
19 methods of group counseling, and the application
20 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 to
18 select, administer, interpret, and use assessment
19 and evaluation instruments and techniques in
20 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~~] six semester hours or [~~five~~] ten
16 quarter hours [~~per academic term~~] in a mental health
17 counseling setting with three hundred hours of
18 supervised client contact; the practicum experience
19 shall be completed under the clinical supervision of a
20 person who is licensed as a mental health counselor,
21 psychologist, clinical social worker, advanced



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

4 (3) Completion of not less than three thousand hours of
5 post-graduate experience in the practice of mental
6 health counseling with one hundred hours of face-to-
7 face clinical supervision that shall be completed in
8 no less than two years and in no more than four years,
9 under the clinical supervision of a person who is a
10 licensed mental health counselor, psychologist,
11 clinical social worker, advanced practice registered
12 nurse with a specialty in mental health, marriage and
13 family therapist, or physician with a specialty in
14 psychiatry; and

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

17 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

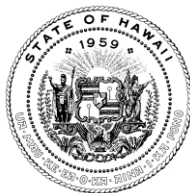
Mental Health Counselors; Licensure; Qualifications; Practicum Experience

Description:

Amends the practicum experience requirements for qualification for licensure as a mental health counselor. (SB2647 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.





DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
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PRESENTATION OF THE
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
INTRASTATE COMMERCE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Wednesday, March 21, 2018
9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2647, H.D. 1, RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS.

TO THE HONORABLE TAKASHI OHNO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Carol Kramer, and I am the Executive Officer of the Mental Health Counselor Program ("Program"). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 2647, H.D. 1, Relating to Mental Health Counselors.

The Program concurs with generalizing the practicum experience requirement by amending the law to require a total of at least six semester hours or ten quarter hours within at least two academic terms, instead of at least three semester hours or five quarter hours per academic term. The total practicum experience hours will remain the same, continuing to provide no change to consumer protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of S.B. 2647, H.D. 1.

SB-2647-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 7:10:21 AM

Testimony for IAC on 3/21/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja | Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i | Support | No |

Comments:

LATE

SB-2647-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 2:59:19 PM

Testimony for IAC on 3/21/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Donald Kegler | CCase Management Works Hi. Inc. | Support | No |

Comments:

I am a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in support of this bill with the recommendation that the effective date be changed back to July 1, 2018.

SB-2647-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:34:14 PM

Testimony for IAC on 3/21/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sandra Joy Eastlack | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

DATE: Wednesday, March 21,2018 Conference Room 409

TO: The Honorable Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair, The Honorable Representative Issac W. Choy, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Interstate Commerce

FROM: Sandra Joy Eastlasck, MSCP.. NCC. LMHC

RE: Relating to Licensed Mental Health Counselors

I am testifying in strong support of SB2647 HD1 with one amendment.

SB2647, HD1, provides the oppprtunity for otherwise qualified individuals whose universites had a different approach to how their student's practicum classes have been structured to be eligible for licensure in Hawaii. There is no change in the number of hours required.

Sb3647,HD1 changed the effective date to July 1, 3000. My understanding of putting in a date forward is to continue conversation. However, I do not understand what conversation is required as there does not seem tpo be any objection from anyone about this change.

I would respectfully ask that you change the date back to July 1, 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-2647-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 11:04:28 PM

Testimony for IAC on 3/21/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Audrey Malasnik | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2647-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 8:44:14 AM

Testimony for IAC on 3/21/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melisa Secola | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and support this bill. I have also mentored interns over the years and feel such a bill is important for professional development and equipping our community with qualified mental health professionals.

Melisa Secola, Ph.D., LMHC

LATE

SB-2647-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 10:26:33 AM

Testimony for IAC on 3/21/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| jane jamison | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am a LMHC in the state of Hawai'i since 2005. I support SB2647 HD1. Please vote in support of this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
**MAUI SERVICE AREA BOARD ON MENTAL HEALTH AND
SUBSTANCE ABUSE**
121 MAHALANI STREET
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

LATE

LATE

March 21, 2018

Dear House Committee on Intrastate Commerce,

The Maui Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse **strongly opposes** part of the the language in this measure:

“At least two academic terms of supervised mental health practicum intern experience for graduate credit of at least [~~three~~] **six** semester hours or [~~five~~] **ten** quarter hours [per academic term].”

To our understanding there is only (1) one practicum vendor available post Master’s learning for the Island of Maui, which is located on the Island of O’ahu. Our outer island workforce is limited in access to these types of resources (i.e., vendors), have already been working in credentialed statuses under the Department of Health or the Department of Education in positions similar in structure to mental health counselors, and are receiving clinical oversight (i.e., behavioral health specialist), already. Furthermore, the current language intends to increase semester or quarter hours, which adds to the barrier. Therefore, we believe it is very logical to provide these individuals with reciprocity in exchange for practicum hours and/or a waiver within the language of this measure through HRS Chapter 453D. Thank you for the opportunity to testify!

Sincerely

Harold Ames, Ph.D.
Chairperson