

SB2647

Measure Title: RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS.

Report Title: Mental Health Counselors; Licensure; Qualifications; Practicum Experience

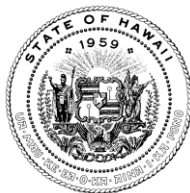
Description: Amends the practicum experience requirements for qualification for licensure as a mental health counselor.

Companion: [HB2058](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s): BAKER, GALUTERIA, INOUYE, TOKUDA, Gabbard, Ihara, Keith-Agaran, Kidani, Nishihara, L. Thielen



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310

P.O. BOX 541

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Phone Number: 586-2850

Fax Number: 586-2856

cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF THE
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Wednesday, February 14, 2018
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2647, RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH
COUNSELORS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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 on S.B. 2647, which is a companion to H.B. 2058. The Program strongly supports this measure.

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 providing no change to consumer protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 2647.

SB-2647

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 9:30:21 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/14/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Hodell		Support	No

Comments:

I am Sarah Hodell, President of Hawaii Counselors Association (HCA).

HCA supports SB2647.

SB2647 allows graduate level counselors who attend universities that may wish to provide alternative class sett up for practicum classes to do so as long as the required hours are met. Currently Hawaii has a shortage of professionally trained mental health counselors. With these changes we should be able to better define Counselor Educatiion paths.

**THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018**

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair**

Testimony in Support of SB2647

February 14, 2018, 9:00 am, Conf. Room 229

Honorable Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Tokuda, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health, I am Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D. and I wish to submit this testimony in support of SB2647, which amends the practicum experience requirements for qualification for licensure as a mental health counselor.

As the former internship director of Hawaii Pacific University's MA program in clinical mental health counseling, I recall there being a few students that were in a bind with licensure for the very reason this legislation seeks to rectify. It may seem like just a housekeeping issue, but for a handful of aspiring counselors, this legislation will mean the difference between being eligible (for licensure) and not.

Streamlining the practicum requirement language brings licensure requirements for mental health counselors in line with requirements of other mental health professionals. This should help qualified mental health counselors to obtain their licenses in Hawai'i where they might otherwise be precluded because of the overly precise language in the current licensure law.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2647.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D.
Past President, Hawaii Psychological Association