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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Monday, February 10, 2020
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

On the following measure:

H.B. 2321, H.D. 1, RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Charlene Tamanaha, and I am the Licensing Administrator of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. The Department supports this administration bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) clarify that the practicum internship experience requirement shall be included with the course work in counseling requirement for mental health counselors; and (2) clarify the supervision requirements of licensure for mental health counselors by permitting applicants to fulfill all or part of their face-to-face clinical supervision requirement by videoconference.

The Department's Mental Health Counselor Program (Program) is the only jurisdiction that includes the practicum internship requirement as a separate, standalone requirement rather than include it with the course work in counseling requirement. As such, all applicants for a Hawaii mental health counselor license must provide 54 semester hours or 82 quarter hours of course work training, versus the national

licensing standard of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours in course work in counseling.

This bill makes the practicum internship requirement a part of the course work in counseling requirement, thereby aligning the Program's licensing requirements with the national licensing standards of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours in course work in counseling.

This bill also streamlines post-graduate experience requirements by allowing the supervision requirement to be fulfilled, in part or whole, through videoconference. Currently, HRS section 453D-7(a)(3) requires post-graduate experience of 3,000 hours, including 100 hours of face-to-face supervision. Due to the prevalence of online courses through accredited universities and colleges, allowing the face-to-face supervision requirement to be completed through videoconference allows applicants some flexibility in completing their post-graduate work experience with both the supervisor and clinic or facility of their choice. This also eases the applicants' burden of always needing a face-to-face, in-person meeting with the supervisor, particularly in the case of neighbor island candidates who work in clinics on the neighbor islands and who need to communicate with supervisors on Oahu.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we respectfully ask the Committee to pass this administration bill.



Monday, February 10, 2020

House Bill 2321 HD1
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

The Democratic Part of Hawaii (The Party) stands in support of HB2321 HD1 Relating to Mental Health Counselors, which clarifies that the practicum internship experience requirement shall be included with the course work in counseling requirement for mental health counselors. Clarifies the supervision requirements of licensure for mental health counselors by permitting applicants to fulfill all or part of their face-to-face clinical supervision requirement by a videoconference service.

Given the geography of the state of Hawaii and the low number of qualified mental health professionals available in some of the more rural areas, this clarification to the licensure requirement, (allowing clinical supervision to take place via HIPAA compliant modes of technology), will in fact increase the amount of professional who can obtain licensure, thereby increasing access to behavioral health services to the residents of the state of Hawaii.

There have been many studies conducted on the effectiveness of Tele-supervision, and it began being implemented in states with rural geography in 2016.

“Clinical supervision is integral to continuing professional development of health professionals. With advances in technology, clinical supervision too can be undertaken using mediums such as videoconference, email and teleconference. This mode of clinical supervision is termed as tele-supervision. While tele-supervision could be useful in any context, its value is amplified for health professionals working in rural and remote areas where access to supervisors within the local work environment is often diminished.”

Hawaii already struggles with attracting and keeping mental health professionals for a myriad of reasons. Let's focus on removing the barriers, not creating them.

It is for these reasons that we encourage a favorable vote on this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Josh Frost
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Zahava Zaidoff
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214782917300131>



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Monday, February 10, 2020 at 2:00 p.m, Rm 329

By
Bonnie Irwin
Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 2321 HD1 – RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2321 HD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) writes in strong support of HB 2321 HD1. The proposed change in the mental health counselor licensure law is directly relevant to our graduates in the Masters of Arts Program in Counseling Psychology (Specialization: Clinical Mental Health Counseling), as they are trained to be eligible for this license. The current version of the law unintentionally placed the 6-credit fieldwork requirement ("Practicum Intern Experience" with a total of 300 direct client hours) as a separate requirement from the 48-credit curriculum requirement, thereby changing the overall requirement to 54 credits. As the intent of the law was to require a 48-credit training, which is consistent with the licensing laws of other states, HB 2321 HD1 will fix this important flaw.

In addition, we strongly recommend that the bill change the language in HRS §453D-7(a)(1)(F) on page 6, line 8, which references the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM), from "DSM-IV" to "DSM." The IV refers to the edition of the DSM to be used by mental health providers, and is updated once every several years, including the edition designation. By changing the designation from DSM-IV to DSM, the bill keeps the law current without requiring the statute to be changed on a periodic basis.

Furthermore, we request that the law be amended in Section (J), to read "At least two academic terms of supervised mental health practicum intern experience for graduate credit of at least six semester hours or ten quarter hours in a mental health counseling setting, with **a total of** three hundred hours of supervised client contact." The law needs to be clear that the 300 hours are the total accrued hours across two semesters.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony and fully support this bill.

HB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 4:48:46 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faith Gilley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Roy Takumi and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

My name is Faith Gilley and I am a student in the Counseling Psychology MA Program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. I am writing in strong support of HB2321 HD1. The proposed change in the mental health counselor licensure law is directly relevant to the graduates of the MA Program in Counseling Psychology (Specialization: Clinical Mental Health Counseling) at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, as graduates are trained to be eligible for this license. The current version of the law accidentally placed the 6-credit fieldwork requirement ("Practicum Intern Experience" with a total of 300 direct client hours) as a separate requirement from the 48-credit curriculum requirement, thereby changing the overall requirement to 54 credits. As the intent of the law was to require a 48-credit training, which is consistent with the licensing laws of other states, HB2321 HD1 will fix this important flaw.

Also, the bill will change the wording of the diagnostic manual from "DSM-IV" to "DSM." DSM-IV is an older version and the new edition is DSM-5. The editions will change in the future and hence the law should refer to the generic DSM and not a specific edition.

Furthermore, I request that the law be amended in Section (J), to read "At least two academic terms of supervised mental health practicum intern experience for graduate credit of at least six semester hours or ten quarter hours in a mental health counseling setting, with a **total of** three hundred hours of supervised client contact." The law needs to be clear that the 300 hours are the total accrued hours across two semesters.

Sincerely,

Faith A. Gilley

HB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 3:40:29 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Webster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Roy Takumi and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

I am a graduate student in the UH Hilo counseling program. I am writing in strong support of HB2321 HD1. The proposed change in the mental health counselor licensure law is directly relevant to the graduates of the MA Program in Counseling Psychology (Specialization: Clinical Mental Health Counseling) at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, as these graduates are trained to be eligible for this license. The current version of the law accidentally placed the 6-credit fieldwork requirement ("Practicum Intern Experience" with a total of 300 direct client hours) as a separate requirement from the 48-credit curriculum requirement, thereby changing the overall requirement to 54 credits. As the intent of the law was to require a 48-credit training, which is consistent with the licensing laws of other states, HB2321 HD1 will fix this important flaw.

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Furthermore, I request that the law be amended in Section (J), to read "At least two academic terms of supervised mental health practicum intern experience for graduate credit of at least six semester hours or ten quarter hours in a mental health counseling setting, with **a total of** three hundred hours of supervised client contact." The law needs to be clear that the 300 hours are the total accrued hours across two semesters.

With thanks,

Amanda Webster

HB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 9:36:46 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Candice Miner-Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Roy Takumi and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

My name is Candice Miner-Ching, I am a current graduate student in the MA Counseling Psychology program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. I am writing in strong support of HB2321 HD1. The proposed change in the mental health counselor licensure law is directly relevant to the graduates of the MA Program in Counseling Psychology (Specialization: Clinical Mental Health Counseling) at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, as these graduates are trained to be eligible for this license. The current version of the law accidentally placed the 6-credit fieldwork requirement ("Practicum Intern Experience" with a total of 300 direct client hours) as a separate requirement from the 48-credit curriculum requirement, thereby changing the overall requirement to 54 credits. As the intent of the law was to require a 48-credit training, which is consistent with the licensing laws of other states, HB2321 HD1 will fix this important flaw.

Also, the bill will change the wording of the diagnostic manual from "DSM-IV" to "DSM." DSM-IV is an older version and the new edition is DSM-5. The editions will change in the future and hence the law should refer to the generic DSM and not a specific edition.

Furthermore, I request that the law be amended in Section (J), to read "At least two academic terms of supervised mental health practicum intern experience for graduate credit of at least six semester hours or ten quarter hours in a mental health counseling setting, with a **total of** three hundred hours of supervised client contact." The law needs to be clear that the 300 hours are the total accrued hours across two semesters.

Mahalo,
Candice Miner-Ching

HB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 5:53:04 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan Kim, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Roy Takumi and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

I am the Director of the Master of Arts Program in Counseling Psychology (Specialization: Clinical Mental Health Counseling) and Professor of Psychology at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. I am writing to express my most strong support of HB2321 HD1.

The proposed change in the mental health counselor licensure law is directly relevant to our graduates in the MA Program in Counseling Psychology (Specialization: Clinical Mental Health Counseling), as they are trained to be eligible for this license. The current version of the law accidentally placed the 6-credit fieldwork requirement ("Practicum Intern Experience" with a total of 300 direct client hours) as a separate requirement from the 48-credit curriculum requirement, thereby changing the overall requirement to 54 credits. As the intent of the law was to require a 48-credit training, which is consistent with the licensing laws of other states, HB2321 will fix this important flaw.

Also, the bill will change the wording of the diagnostic manual from "DSM-IV" to "DSM." DSM-IV is an older version and the current edition is DSM-5. The editions will change in the future and hence the law should refer to the generic DSM and not a specific edition.

Furthermore, we request that the law be amended in Section (J), to read "At least two academic terms of supervised mental health practicum intern experience for graduate credit of at least six semester hours or ten quarter hours in a mental health counseling setting, with **a total of** three hundred hours of supervised client contact." The law needs to be clear that the 300 hours are the total accrued hours across two semesters.

Sincerely,

Bryan S. K. Kim, Ph.D.

HB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 4:22:03 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 8:16:00 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Roy Takumi and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

My name is Maria Mitsioura. I am a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. I am writing in strong support of HB2321 HD1. The proposed change in the mental health counselor licensure law is directly relevant to the graduates of the MA Program in Counseling Psychology (Specialization: Clinical Mental Health Counseling) at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, as these graduates are trained to be eligible for this license. The current version of the law accidentally placed the 6-credit fieldwork requirement ("Practicum Intern Experience" with a total of 300 direct client hours) as a separate requirement from the 48-credit curriculum requirement, thereby changing the overall requirement to 54 credits. As the intent of the law was to require a 48-credit training, which is consistent with the licensing laws of other states, HB2321 HD1 will fix this important flaw.

Also, the bill will change the wording of the diagnostic manual from "DSM-IV" to "DSM." DSM-IV is an older version and the new edition is DSM-5. The editions will change in the future and hence the law should refer to the generic DSM and not a specific edition.

Furthermore, I request that the law be amended in Section (J), to read "At least two academic terms of supervised mental health practicum intern experience for graduate credit of at least six semester hours or ten quarter hours in a mental health counseling setting, with **a total of** three hundred hours of supervised client contact." The law needs to be clear that the 300 hours are the total accrued hours across two semesters.

Respectfully,

Maria Mitsioura

HB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 9:09:17 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Petrosky	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Roy Takumi and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

My name is Sharon Petrosky. I am writing in strong support of HB2321 HD1. The proposed change in the mental health counselor licensure law is directly relevant to the graduates of the MA Program in Counseling Psychology (Specialization: Clinical Mental Health Counseling) at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, as these graduates are trained to be eligible for this license. The current version of the law accidentally placed the 6-credit fieldwork requirement ("Practicum Intern Experience" with a total of 300 direct client hours) as a separate requirement from the 48-credit curriculum requirement, thereby changing the overall requirement to 54 credits. As the intent of the law was to require a 48-credit training, which is consistent with the licensing laws of other states, HB2321 HD1 will fix this important flaw.

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Furthermore, I request that the law be amended in Section (J), to read "At least two academic terms of supervised mental health practicum intern experience for graduate credit of at least six semester hours or ten quarter hours in a mental health counseling setting, with **a total of** three hundred hours of supervised client contact." The law needs to be clear that the 300 hours are the total accrued hours across two semesters.

Sincerely,

Sharon Petrosky

HB-2321-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 11:54:49 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tara Myers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Roy Takumi and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

I am a graduate student in the Counseling Psychology Masters's program at the University of Hawaii Hilo and I'm writing in strong support of HB2321 HD1. The proposed change in the mental health counselor licensure law is directly relevant to the graduates of the MA Program in Counseling Psychology (Specialization: Clinical Mental Health Counseling) at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, as these graduates are trained to be eligible for this license. The current version of the law accidentally placed the 6-credit fieldwork requirement ("Practicum Intern Experience" with a total of 300 direct client hours) as a separate requirement from the 48-credit curriculum requirement, thereby changing the overall requirement to 54 credits. As the intent of the law was to require a 48-credit training, which is consistent with the licensing laws of other states, HB2321 HD1 will fix this important flaw.

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Sincerely,

Tara Myers