

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH LICENSING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Asian Americans,
2 native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color
3 experience disparities in mental health care. Members of
4 minority communities suffer from high rates of depression,
5 trauma, and mental illness but may be unlikely to access mental
6 health services. The legislature recognizes that a fear of
7 receiving culturally insensitive or culturally inappropriate
8 treatment can be a barrier to seeking help. The legislature
9 also recognizes that an individual's culture can influence the
10 symptomatic expression of mental illness, making cultural
11 competence critical for accurate diagnoses and effective care.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require
13 psychologists licensed in the State to complete at least three
14 hours of continuing education per licensing biennium on topics
15 relating to cultural diversity, cultural competence, or health
16 equity.



SECTION 2. Section 465-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended as follows:

1. By amending subsection (c) to read:

"(c) Beginning with the July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2018, biennium period and prior to every biennial renewal thereafter, each licensee shall:

(1) Pay all required fees; and

(2) Complete a minimum of eighteen credit hours of continuing education within every licensing biennium[-]; provided that at least three hours of continuing education shall be on topics relating to cultural diversity, cultural competence, or health equity."

2. By amending subsection (f) to read:

"(f) Any licensee seeking renewal of a license without full compliance with the continuing education requirement shall submit with the renewal application the required fee, a notarized affidavit setting forth the facts explaining the reasons for noncompliance, and a request for an extension on the basis of the facts; provided that the licensee shall complete at least thirty-six hours of continuing education for the next



S.B. NO. 2030

1 licensing biennium[-]; provided further that at least six hours
2 of continuing education shall be on topics relating to cultural
3 diversity, cultural competence, or health equity. The board
4 shall consider each case on an individual basis and may grant an
5 extension based on:

- 6 (1) Practice in an isolated geographical area with an
7 absence of opportunities for continuing education by
8 taped programs or otherwise; or
9 (2) Inability to devote sufficient hours to continuing
10 education because of incapacity, undue hardship, or
11 any other serious extenuating circumstances."

12 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

15 INTRODUCED BY:

Jana Acasio



S.B. NO. 2830

Report Title:

Continuing Education; Mental Health; Psychologists; Cultural Diversity; Cultural Competence; Health Equity

Description:

Requires psychologists licensed in the State to complete at least 3 hours of continuing education per licensing biennium on topics relating to cultural diversity, cultural competence, or health equity.

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