



GOV. MSG. NO. 1023

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

July 5, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

This is to inform you that on July 5, 2007, the following bill was signed into law:

SB667 SD3 HD2 CD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL  
HEALTH COUNSELORS.  
(ACT 252)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle".

LINDA LINGLE

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS.

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

1           SECTION 1. Act 14, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006 (Act 14),  
2 was enacted to amend the definition of the "practice of mental  
3 health counseling" by clarifying that professional counseling  
4 services are based on the specialized education, training, and  
5 experience that a practitioner has completed. In addition, Act  
6 14 sets terms and conditions for interns and post-graduate work.

7           The purpose of this Act is to clarify the requirements for  
8 mental health counselor licensure by providing an alternative  
9 means of verifying the completion of the practicum intern and  
10 post-graduate experience requirements for persons who graduated  
11 from an accredited program before July 1, 2007.

12           SECTION 2. Section 453D-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14           "**§453D-7 Application for licensure as a mental health**  
15 **counselor.** (a) ~~[Any person who applies to the department after~~  
16 ~~July 1, 2005]~~ An applicant shall be issued a license by the  
17 department if the applicant provides satisfactory evidence to



1 the department that the applicant is qualified for licensure  
2 pursuant to the requirements of this chapter and meets the  
3 following qualifications:

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

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

20 (B) Social and cultural foundations, including but  
21 not limited to the study of issues and trends in  
22 a multicultural and diverse society, including



1 characteristics of diverse groups that may  
2 include but are not limited to age, race,  
3 religious or sexual preference, physical  
4 disability, ethnicity and culture, gender,  
5 socioeconomics, intellectual ability, and  
6 individual, family, and group strategies with  
7 diverse populations;

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

18 (D) Group theory and practice, including but not  
19 limited to principles of group dynamics, group  
20 process, group leadership styles, theories and  
21 methods of group counseling, and the application  
22 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 [~~in~~  
18 ~~order~~] to select, administer, interpret, and use  
19 assessment and evaluation instruments and  
20 techniques in counseling;
- 21 (H) Research and program evaluation, including but  
22 not limited to research design and methods,



1                    statistical analysis, principles, practices, and  
2                    application of needs assessment, and program  
3                    evaluation; and

4                    (I) Professional orientation and ethics, including  
5                    but not limited to the history of the helping  
6                    profession, professional roles and functions,  
7                    ethical standards, confidentiality, professional  
8                    organizations, and the public policy process,  
9                    including advocacy on behalf of the profession  
10                    and its clientele;

11                    (2) At least two academic terms of supervised mental  
12                    health practicum intern experience for graduate credit  
13                    of at least three semester hours or five quarter hours  
14                    per academic term in a mental health counseling  
15                    setting with three hundred hours of supervised client  
16                    contact; the practicum experience shall be completed  
17                    under the clinical supervision of a person who is  
18                    licensed as a mental health counselor, psychologist,  
19                    clinical social worker, advanced practice registered  
20                    nurse with a specialty in mental health, marriage and  
21                    family therapist, or physician with a specialty in  
22                    psychiatry;



- 1 (3) Completion of not less than three thousand hours of  
2 post-graduate experience in the practice of mental  
3 health counseling with one hundred hours of face-to-  
4 face clinical supervision [~~which~~] that shall be  
5 completed in no less than two years and in no more  
6 than four years, under the clinical supervision of a  
7 person who is a licensed mental health counselor,  
8 psychologist, clinical social worker, advanced  
9 practice registered nurse with a specialty in mental  
10 health, marriage and family therapist, or physician  
11 with a specialty in psychiatry; and
- 12 (4) Passed the National Counselor Examination for  
13 Licensure and Certification.
- 14 (b) An individual who:
- 15 (1) Holds current, unencumbered certification as a  
16 national certified counselor or a national certified  
17 rehabilitation counselor prior to the effective date  
18 of this chapter;
- 19 (2) Has passed the National Counselor Examination for  
20 Licensure and Certification, National Clinical Mental  
21 Health Counselors Examination of the National Board  
22 for Certified Counselors, or Commission on



1 Rehabilitation Counselor Certification examination  
2 after January 1, 2000, and before July 1, 2005; and

3 (3) Within one year of the effective date of this chapter,  
4 applies for licensure and pays the applicable license  
5 fee, shall be deemed to have met the requirements of  
6 this section.

7 (c) For an applicant who graduated from an accredited  
8 educational institution as specified in subsection (a)(1) before  
9 July 1, 2007, the department shall also deem acceptable:

10 (1) For practicum intern experience, written certification  
11 from an official of the institution of higher  
12 education attesting that the applicant has completed  
13 the academic terms, graduate credit hours, and  
14 supervised client contact hours in subsection (a)(2)  
15 and that the applicant's practicum intern experience  
16 is equivalent to a mental health graduate level  
17 practicum program; and

18 (2) For post-graduate experience, written certification  
19 from an officer and the clinical supervisor of the  
20 agency at which the applicant has earned experience  
21 attesting that the applicant has completed the hours  
22 of experience and supervision in subsection (a)(3)



1           within the time frame set forth in that subsection,  
2           and that the applicant's post-graduate experience is  
3           equivalent to the practice of mental health  
4           counseling.

5   The license requirements for clinical supervisors under  
6   subsections (a) (2) and (a) (3) shall not apply to this  
7   subsection."

8           SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
9   and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10          SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Approved this day: JUL 5 2007

