



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

July 10, 2018

**GOV. MSG. NO. 1294**

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 10, 2018, the following bill was signed into law:

SB2647 HD3

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS  
**ACT 185 (18)**

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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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. 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           The purpose of this Act is to amend the practicum  
6 experience qualifications for licensure as a mental health  
7 counselor to accommodate different coursework structures, while  
8 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, 2018.

APPROVED this 10 day of JUL, 2018

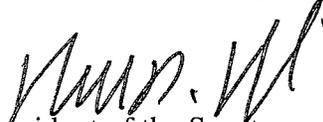


GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I**

Date: April 25, 2018  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the  
Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2018.

  
President of the Senate

  
Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 2647, HD 3

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 5, 2018  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018.



Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker  
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives