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A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 465-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended as follows:

3 1. By adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
4 and to read as follows:

5 "American Psychological Association" means the American  
6 Psychological Association or its successor agency approved by  
7 the board."

8 2. By amending the definition of "continuing education" to  
9 read as follows:

10 "Continuing education" means courses approved by the  
11 American Psychological Association, the Hawaii Psychological  
12 Association, or other state or provincial psychological  
13 Associations[-], and continuing medical education courses that  
14 are related to the practice of psychology and approved by the  
15 American Medical Association or its successor agency approved by  
16 the board."

17 3. By amending the definition of "institution of higher  
18 education" to read as follows:

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1            " "Institution of higher education" means a university,  
2 professional school, or other institution of higher learning  
3 that:

4            (1) In the United States, is regionally accredited by  
5 bodies approved by [~~the Council on Postsecondary~~  
6 ~~Accreditation and~~] the Council for Higher Education  
7 Accreditation or its successor agency approved by the  
8 board or the United States Department of Education; or

9            (2) In Canada, holds a membership in [~~the Association of~~  
10 ~~Universities and Colleges of Canada, or~~] Universities  
11 Canada or its successor agency approved by the board.

12 [~~(3) In other countries, is accredited by the respective~~  
13 ~~official organization having such authority.] "~~

14            4. By amending the definition of "professional psychology  
15 training program" to read as follows:

16            " "Professional psychology training program" means a  
17 doctoral training program that [~~includes (1) and (2), or (1) and~~  
18 ~~(3) of the following:~~

19            ~~(1) Is a planned program of study which reflects~~  
20            ~~an integration of the science and practice of~~  
21            ~~psychology including practica and internship; and~~

22            ~~(2) Is designated as a doctoral program in~~

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1           ~~psychology by the Association of State and Provincial~~  
2           ~~Psychology Boards and the National Register of Health~~  
3           ~~Service Providers in Psychology or is accredited by~~  
4           ~~the Canadian Psychological Association; or~~  
5           (3) ~~Is offered in a regionally accredited~~  
6           ~~institution of higher education.]~~ is a planned  
7           sequential program of study and training offered in an  
8           institution of higher education that reflects an  
9           integration of psychological science and practice to  
10           facilitate human development and functioning and  
11           prepares individuals to provide psychological services  
12           to the general public."

13           SECTION 3. Section 465-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15           "**§465-7.5 Foreign graduates.** ~~[An applicant trained in an~~  
16 ~~institution other than an institution of higher education as~~  
17 ~~defined in this chapter must demonstrate to the satisfaction of~~  
18 ~~the board that the applicant possesses a doctoral degree in~~  
19 ~~psychology, the requirements for which are substantially similar~~  
20 ~~to the requirements for a doctoral degree in professional~~  
21 ~~psychology as required in this chapter. The board shall~~  
22 ~~consider the certification of the graduate division of the~~

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1 ~~University of Hawaii that the degree from the foreign university~~  
2 ~~is equivalent to a doctoral degree granted from an institution~~  
3 ~~of higher education as defined in this chapter.]~~ (a) An  
4 applicant who holds a doctoral degree in psychology trained in  
5 an institution other than an institution of higher education as  
6 defined in section 465-1 must demonstrate to the satisfaction of  
7 the board that the requirements for the doctoral degree are  
8 substantially similar to the requirements for a doctoral degree  
9 in professional psychology training program as required in  
10 section 465-7(a) (1) (B). The board may consider the  
11 certification by a current member agency of the National  
12 Association of Credential Evaluation Services that the doctoral  
13 degree from the foreign university is equivalent to a doctoral  
14 degree granted from an institution of higher education as  
15 defined in section 465-1; and

16 (b) Regardless of country of origin, a master's degree in  
17 psychology shall not have parity with a doctoral degree in  
18 professional psychology as required for licensure by this  
19 chapter and shall not be used to meet the education requirements  
20 for licensure."

21 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
22 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*Stan*

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BY REQUEST

JAN 23 2023

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**Report Title:**

Psychologists; Definitions; License Requirements.

**Description:**

Updates definitions related to the education and training requirements of psychologists; amends the screening process for applicants educated at a foreign institution.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Commerce and Consumer Affairs

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS.

PURPOSE: To add and update definitions related to education and training requirements of psychologists and amend the application review process for those applicants whose doctoral degree was obtained in a foreign institution.

MEANS: Amends sections 465-1 and 465-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

JUSTIFICATION: The Hawaii Board of Psychology (Board) administers chapter 465, HRS, and finds that the chapter has outdated definitions and provisions that make administration unnecessarily complex related to the education and training of applicants and licensees, as well as the review process of foreign educated applicants.

To resolve these issues, the Board proposes to add the definition of "American Psychological Association," expand the definition of "continuing education," and further clarify the definitions of "institution of higher education" and "professional psychology training program." Further changes are proposed to make the review process of foreign educated applicants by the Board congruent with the new definitions and current national practices.

Impact on the public: Updating the definitions and provisions related to the education and training of psychologists, including those that are foreign educated, will ensure that psychologists accessed by the public meet current educational standards and be able to provide safe and effective care.

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Impact on the department and other agencies:

Updating the definitions and further clarifying the screening process of foreign educated applicants set forth by section 465-7.5, HRS, will reduce the time and use of resources spent by the Board on unnecessary issues caused by misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the statutes' complex language on the subject.

GENERAL FUNDS: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION: CCA-105.

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES: University of Hawaii. Certification that the degree from the foreign university is equivalent to a doctoral degree granted from an institution of higher education as defined by the chapter will no longer be completed by the graduate department of the University of Hawaii Department of Psychology.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.