

JAN 21 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 451J-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§451J-7 Application for licensure.** Any person who files
4 an application with the department after December 31, 1998,
5 shall be issued a license by the department if the applicant
6 provides satisfactory evidence to the department that the
7 applicant is qualified for licensure pursuant to the
8 requirements of this chapter and meets the following
9 qualifications:

10 (1) Has completed a master's degree or doctoral degree
11 from an accredited educational institution in marriage
12 and family therapy or in an allied field related to
13 the practice of mental health counseling [~~which~~] that
14 includes or is supplemented by graduate level course
15 work comprising a minimum of [~~thirty-three~~] thirty-six
16 semester, or [~~forty-four~~] forty-eight quarter hours in
17 the following course areas:



1 (A) Marriage and family studies--nine semester or
2 twelve quarter hours;

3 (B) Marriage and family therapy studies--nine
4 semester or twelve quarter hours;

5 (C) Human development--nine semester or twelve
6 quarter hours;

7 (D) Ethical and professional studies--three semester
8 or four quarter hours; [and]

9 (E) Research--three semester or four quarter hours;
10 and

11 (F) Courses related to domestic violence--three
12 semester or four quarter hours;

13 (2) Has one year practicum with three hundred hours
14 supervised client contact;

15 (3) Completes one thousand hours of direct marriage and
16 family therapy, and two hundred hours clinical
17 supervision in not less than twenty-four months; and

18 (4) Has passed the National Marriage and Family Therapy
19 Exam in accordance with section 451J-8.



1 An individual who is a clinical member of the association
2 shall be deemed to have met the educational and clinical
3 experience requirements of this section."

4 SECTION 2. Section 451J-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

6 "(b) Beginning with the renewal for the licensing
7 triennium commencing on January 1, 2017, through December 31,
8 2019, and prior to every triennial renewal thereafter, each
9 licensee shall:

10 (1) Pay all required fees; and
11 (2) Complete a minimum of forty-five credit hours of
12 continuing education courses within the three-year
13 period preceding the renewal date; provided that a
14 minimum of six credit hours shall be in ethics
15 courses[.]; provided further that a minimum of two
16 credit hours shall be in courses related to domestic
17 violence."

18 SECTION 3. Section 453D-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

20 "(a) An applicant shall be issued a license by the
21 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) Receipt of a master's degree or doctoral degree from
5 an accredited educational institution in counseling or
6 in an allied field related to the practice of mental
7 health counseling that includes, or is supplemented
8 by, graduate level course work in counseling
9 comprising a minimum of forty-eight semester hours or
10 seventy-two quarter hours in the following course
11 areas, with a minimum of three semester hours or five
12 quarter hours 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



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

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

19 (D) Group theory and practice, including but not
20 limited to principles of group dynamics, group
21 process, group leadership styles, theories and





1 and evaluation instruments and techniques in
2 counseling;

3 (H) Research and program evaluation, including but
4 not limited to research design and methods,
5 statistical analysis, principles, practices, and
6 application of needs assessment, and program
7 evaluation;

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

15 (J) At least two academic terms of supervised mental
16 health practicum intern experience for graduate
17 credit of at least six semester hours or ten
18 quarter hours in a mental health counseling
19 setting, with a total of three hundred hours of
20 supervised client contact. The practicum
21 experience shall be completed under the clinical



1 supervision of a person who is licensed as a
2 mental health counselor, psychologist, clinical
3 social worker, advanced practice registered nurse
4 with a specialty in mental health, marriage and
5 family therapist, or physician with a specialty
6 in psychiatry; and



1 supervision that is conducted electronically through a
2 videoconference service that complies with all federal
3 and state privacy, security, and confidentiality laws,
4 including the Health Insurance Portability and
5 Accountability Act of 1996; provided that the
6 applicant shall review the laws and rules of other
7 jurisdictions to determine the impact, if any, that
8 electronic supervision may have on licensure by
9 endorsement or reciprocity in other states [prior to]
10 before electing electronic supervision; and
11 (3) Passage of the National Counselor Examination for
12 Licensure and Certification."

13 SECTION 4. Section 453D-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "[f]S453D-11[] **Renewal of license; fees[.]**; continuing
16 education requirement. (a) Except as otherwise provided in
17 section 453D-7.5, licenses shall be renewed, upon the payment of
18 a renewal fee, triennially not earlier than ninety days before
19 June 30, with the first renewal deadline occurring on June 30,
20 2008. Failure to renew a license shall result in a forfeiture
21 of the license. Licenses that have been forfeited may be



1 restored within one year of the expiration date upon payment of
2 renewal and restoration fees. Failure to restore a forfeited
3 license within one year of the date of its expiration shall
4 result in the automatic termination of the license and the
5 person may be required to reapply for licensure as a new
6 applicant. All renewal and restoration fees shall be determined
7 by the department.

8 (b) Before every triennial renewal, each licensee shall
9 complete a minimum of two credit hours of continuing education
10 within every licensing triennium in courses related to domestic
11 violence.

12 (c) A first-time licensee shall not be subject to the
13 continuing education requirement established under
14 subsection (b) for the first license renewal.

15 (d) Each licensee shall be responsible for maintaining the
16 licensee's continuing education records. At the time of
17 renewal, each licensee shall certify under oath that the
18 licensee has complied with the continuing education requirement
19 of this section. The director may require a licensee to submit
20 evidence satisfactory to the director that demonstrates



1 compliance with the continuing education requirement of this
2 section.

3 (e) A licensee seeking renewal of a license without full
4 compliance with the continuing education requirement shall
5 submit the renewal application, required fee, a notarized
6 affidavit setting forth the facts explaining the reasons for
7 noncompliance, and a request for an extension on the basis of
8 the facts; provided that the licensee shall complete at least
9 ninety hours of continuing education, including at least twelve
10 hours in ethics courses, before the next licensing triennium.

11 The director shall consider each case on an individual basis and
12 may grant an extension of the continuing education requirement
13 based upon:

14 (1) Practice in an isolated geographical area with an
15 absence of opportunities for continuing education by
16 taped programs or otherwise; or
17 (2) Inability to devote sufficient hours to continuing
18 education because of incapacity, undue hardship, or
19 any other serious extenuating circumstances.

20 (f) The director may conduct random audits of licensees to
21 determine compliance with the continuing education requirement.



1 The director shall provide written notice of an audit to a
2 licensee randomly selected for audit. Within sixty days of
3 notification, the licensee shall provide the director with
4 documentation verifying compliance with the continuing education
5 requirement established by this section."

6 SECTION 5. Section 465-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

8 (a) Every applicant for a license as a psychologist shall
9 submit evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant
10 meets the following requirements:

11 (1) The applicant for licensure shall possess a doctoral
12 degree from:

13 (A) An American Psychological Association approved
14 program in clinical psychology, counseling
15 psychology, school psychology, or programs
16 offering combinations of two or more of these
17 areas; or

18 (B) A professional psychology training program,
19 awarded by an institution of higher education, or
20 from a regionally accredited institution;
21 provided that the applicant for licensure shall



have completed a minimum of three semester hours of graduate-level courses related to domestic violence;

(2) The applicant for licensure shall demonstrate that the applicant has completed one year of post doctoral supervised experience in health service in psychology, and:

(A) An internship approved by the American Psychological Association; or

(B) One year of supervised experience in health service in psychology, in an internship or residency program in an organized health service training program; and

(3) The applicant for licensure has passed an examination as may be prescribed by the board; provided that applicants issued an associate psychologist provisional license pursuant to section 465-7.2 shall be authorized to take the examination upon the issuance of the license; provided further that the authorization to take the examination shall terminate



1 on the date the provisional license expires or if
2 disciplinary action is taken on the license."

3 SECTION 6. Section 465-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

5 "(c) Beginning with the July 1, 2016, through June 30,
6 2018, biennium period and prior to every biennial renewal
7 thereafter, each licensee shall:

8 (1) Pay all required fees; and
9 (2) Complete a minimum of eighteen credit hours of
10 continuing education within every licensing
11 biennium[‐]; provided that a minimum of two credit
12 hours shall be in courses related to domestic
13 violence."

14 SECTION 7. Section 467E-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

16 "(a) Every applicant for a license as a social worker
17 shall submit evidence satisfactory to the director that the
18 applicant meets the following requirements:

19 (1) For the licensed bachelor social worker, the
20 applicant:



1 (A) Holds a bachelor's degree from a college or
2 university in a social work program accredited by
3 or deemed to be equivalent to a program
4 accredited by the Council on Social Work
5 Education; and

6 (B) Has passed the basic level national examination
7 given by the Association of Social Work Boards;

8 (2) For the licensed social worker, the applicant:
9 (A) Holds a master's degree from a college or
10 university in a social work program accredited by
11 or deemed to be equivalent to an accredited
12 program by the Council on Social Work Education
13 or a doctoral degree from a doctoral degree
14 program in social work accredited by the Western
15 Association of Schools and Colleges or a
16 comparable regional accreditation body; and
17 (B) Has passed the intermediate or higher level
18 national examination given by the Association of
19 Social Work Boards; and

20 (3) For the licensed clinical social worker, the
21 applicant:



(A) Has met the educational requirements in paragraph (2) [+] and completed a minimum of three semester hours of graduate-level courses related to domestic violence;

(B) Has passed the clinical level national examination given by the Association of Social Work Boards;

(C) Has provided evidence of successful completion of at least three thousand hours of post masters clinical social work experience under supervision completed within no fewer than two years, but within no more than five years. Clinical social work experience shall include a minimum of two thousand hours of assessment, clinical diagnosis, and psychotherapy; no more than a maximum of nine hundred hours of client-centered advocacy, consultation, and evaluation; and at least one hundred hours of supervision as follows:

(i) At least sixty of the one hundred hours of direct face-to-face supervision shall have been individualized supervision; and



(ii) Not more than forty hours of direct face-to-face supervision may have been under small group (up to six supervisees) supervision.

An applicant who submits evidence of certification as a qualified clinical social worker or diplomate in clinical social work by the National Association of Social Workers or as a board certified diplomate by the American Board of Examiners shall be deemed to have satisfied the experience requirements of this subparagraph;

(D) For the purposes of subparagraph (C), shall have had clinical supervision as follows:

(i) The supervisor shall have been a licensed clinical social worker with at least four thousand five hundred hours of post masters clinical social work experience;

(ii) For the first five years after July 1, 2004, the following individuals shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of a supervisor: a person with a master's degree in social work with at least four thousand



1 five hundred hours post masters clinical
2 social work experience; an individual who
3 holds a diplomate in clinical social work or
4 a board certified diplomate certification;
5 or a board certified psychiatrist,
6 psychologist, advanced practice registered
7 nurse who has a minimum of four thousand
8 five hundred hours of post masters clinical
9 experience in assessment, clinical
10 diagnosis, and psychotherapy; and
11 (iii) Supervision shall have included review of
12 assessment, clinical diagnosis, and
13 psychotherapy; and
14 (E) In collaboration with the supervisor, may elect
15 to fulfill some or all of the supervision
16 requirements set forth in subparagraph (C)
17 through face-to-face supervision that is
18 conducted electronically through a video
19 conference service that is compliant with all
20 federal and state privacy, security, and
21 confidentiality laws, including the Health



1 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
2 1996. [Prior to] Before making the election, it
3 [is] shall be incumbent upon the applicant to
4 review the laws and rules of other jurisdictions
5 to determine the impact, if any, that electronic
6 supervision may have on license by endorsement in
7 other states."

8 SECTION 8. Section 467E-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

10 "(c) Beginning with the renewal for the licensing
11 triennium commencing on July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2019, and
12 prior to every triennial renewal thereafter, each licensee
13 shall:

14 (1) Pay all required fees; and

15 (2) Complete a minimum of forty-five credit hours of

16 continuing education courses within the three-year

17 period preceding the renewal date; provided that a

18 minimum of three credit hours shall be in ethic

19 courses[–] and a minimum of two credit hours shall be

20 in courses related to domestic violence."



1 SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

4

INTRODUCED BY:

Mike Gabbard



S.B. NO. 211

Report Title:

Licensure Requirements; Renewals; Continuing Education Requirements; Domestic Violence; Marriage and Family Therapists; Mental Health Counselors; Psychologists; Clinical Social Workers

Description:

Requires marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, psychologists, and clinical social workers to complete courses related to domestic violence for licensure and renewals.

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