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H.B. NO. 3038

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Use of Academic Designations in the Practice of Acupuncture.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 436E-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“~~[[§436E-13]]~~ Use of titles. (a) A licensee who has been awarded a license to practice acupuncture by the board [of acupuncture] in this State may use the title of “Licensed Acupuncturist” or designation “L.Ac.” with the licensee’s name in an advertisement for acupuncture or announce or append the designation to the licensee’s name.

(b) A licensee who has been awarded an earned doctoral degree may use the designation “Ph.D.” in an advertisement for acupuncture or announce or append the designation to the licensee’s name if the degree was granted from a university or college recognized [and approved by the board in recognition of accomplishments in the study or practice of acupuncture (traditional oriental medicine).] by a regional or national accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. A Ph.D. recognized by the board under this subsection shall designate a non-practitioner as opposed to a practitioner or “doctor” of acupuncture as provided in subsection (c).

(c) A licensee who has been awarded an earned doctoral degree from a university or college recognized [and] by a regional or national accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education, or approved by the

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board in the study or practice of acupuncture (traditional oriental medicine), and who has met the standards for the use of academic designations as developed by the board may use the [word] designation "Doctor" [or], the prefix "Dr." [providing], or the designation "D.Ac.", provided that the word "Acupuncturist" immediately follows the licensee's name. The board shall establish the standards required for the use of these academic designations in its rules. The rules shall provide for a time period to enable a licensee to meet the requirements for the continued use of the academic designations and shall prohibit the use of the designations after that period unless those requirements are met.

(d) [Other] Except as provided in this section, use of other titles, prefixes, or designations shall not be permitted [under this chapter when authorized by the board or a department of education curriculum]."

SECTION 2. Act 161, Session Laws of Hawaii 1988, is amended by amending section 2, as amended by section 5 of Act 166, Session Laws of Hawaii 1990, to read as follows:

"SECTION 2. [The Board of Acupuncture shall develop academic standards for the use of academic designations in the practice of acupuncture. The standards shall include provisions that a Ph.D. for acupuncture shall not be awarded unless recognized by a regionally accredited review body. If a Ph.D. is awarded it will be to designate a non-practitioner of acupuncture as opposed to a doctor of acupuncture degree which would be for practitioners of acupuncture. These] Academic standards shall be adopted by the Board [by July 1, 1991, after which such academic standards] and shall be reviewed by the Office of the [Legislative] Auditor who will report to the Legislature twenty days before the convening of the [1992] 1999¹ Regular Session."

SECTION 3. Statutory and session law material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory and session law material is underscored.

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

(Approved May 27, 1992.)

Note

1. So in original.