

HAWAII BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

Guidance for Massage Therapists and Continuing Education (CE)

On June 25, 2021, Act 102, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2021 was signed into law.

Act 102, SLH 2021 amended Hawaii Revised Statutes § 452-16 (Renewal of license; fee; **continuing education**.) to require continuing education for all Hawaii massage therapists with the biennium commencing on **July 1, 2022** and every biennial renewal thereafter.

The continuing education requirement:

- **Beginning on July 1, 2022**, requires all massage therapists to complete at least twelve (12) hours of continuing education within the 2-year period preceding the renewal date (**by June 30, 2024**), of which two (2) of those twelve (12) hours shall include first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or other emergency-related courses;
- Requires the Board to adopt rules relating to the requirements and standards that continuing education programs shall meet to obtain recognition and approval from the Board; and
- Authorizes the Board to conduct a random audit of licensees to determine compliance with the continuing education requirements during the preceding biennium. All licensees selected for audit will be provided written notice of their selection and required to respond within sixty (60) days of notification by and providing documentation verifying compliance with the continuing education requirements.

The Board of Massage Therapy is still in the process of promulgating administrative rules relating to the requirements and standards that continuing education programs shall meet to obtain recognition and approval from the Board. This is a guidance document for your reference as you complete the CE courses required for licensure renewal before June 30 of every even-numbered year.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Will I be required to send CE completion certificates with my licensure renewal?

A: During licensure renewal, you will attest to completing the CE requirement, but you do not need to send copies of any certificates at that time. If you are selected for audit, you will then be required to submit copies of your CE completion certificates.

Q: Will I be required to complete CE if I renew on inactive status?

A: You do not need to complete CE if you renew on inactive status. However, upon reactivation of your license, you will need to provide proof that you met the CE requirement during the preceding biennium.

Q: Will I be required to submit CE completion certificates if I restore my license?

A: If you do not renew your license on time, your license is automatically forfeited. You have one year to restore your license. You must submit a restoration application, fees, including a late fee and proof of completion of the CE requirement for the preceding biennium. If you do not restore your license within one year, you will need to reapply as a new applicant.

Q: What topics are eligible for the CE requirement?

A: Two of the CE hours must be in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation ([CPR](#)), or other emergency-related training courses and must include a hands-on training component.**

~~**For the June 2024 renewal cycle only, a first aid, CPR, or other emergency-related course that is completed online will be accepted.~~

The remaining ten CE hours shall be in any category that enhances the skills and knowledge of the massage therapist, including, but not limited to, professional ethics, theory and practice of massage therapy, modalities, and professional development. Practice-building business courses will not be accepted.

~~**For the June 2024 renewal cycle only, [an exception will be made to accept a first aid, CPR, or other emergency-related course that is completed entirely online.](#) will be [accepted.](#)~~

Q: What are the requirements for the first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), or other emergency-related training course?

A: Two of the continuing education hours shall include first aid, CPR, or other emergency-related courses. The course must be completed and include a hands-on training component.** The course must be sponsored by the American Heart Association (AHA) or American Red Cross (ARC). CPR courses that are sponsored by other providers will need to show curriculum consistent with AHA or ARC guidelines. This requirement is limited to a maximum of two CE hours per biennium.

**For the June 2024 renewal only, an exception will be made to accept a first aid, CPR, or other emergency-related course that is completed entirely online.

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Q: Will online courses be accepted?

A: Distance learning courses will be approved. Distance learning includes courses taken by home study, whether delivered synchronously or asynchronously online by computer means, by live or recorded video or audio media, or by printed materials.

Q: How long is one CE hour?

A: One CE hour must consist of at least 50 minutes of any one clock hour during which the student participates in a learning activity in the presence of an instructor, or in a distance learning activity designed and delivered by a provider.

Q: What are the requirements for a CE provider?

A: Providers of the CE courses shall include massage schools approved by a state board of massage, nationally accredited massage certifying organizations, and local or national professional associations.

Q: What information needs to be on the CE completion certificate?

A: The CE provider shall issue written evidence to each attendee. This certificate shall include the name of the attendee; name of the provider; course or program title, date, and location; and the number of CE hours. Each licensee shall be responsible for maintaining their own completion certificates in the case that they are audited.