

**NOTICE TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS REGARDING ACT 209
AND RENEWAL OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR LICENSE**

Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004 (effective July 1, 2005), established the Mental Health Counselor ("MHC") Licensing Program within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). To assist with the implementation of the MHC Licensing Program, the general fund appropriated \$61,000 to the Department. To be in compliance with Act 209, a fee of \$75 will be assessed for **each new mental health counselor license that is issued and at each renewal period**. The revenue that is collected will be transferred at the end of each quarter to the general fund until the total amount transferred equals the amount that was appropriated by Act 209.

When initially licensed, license numbers 1 through 171 were not assessed the required \$75 fee for a new license. To be in compliance with Act 209, during the upcoming renewal period, license numbers 1 through 171 will be assessed the initial required \$75 fee plus an additional \$75, which must be collected at renewal. This assessment (a total of \$150) is in addition to the triennial renewal fees.

License numbers 172 and higher will be assessed the additional \$75, in addition to the triennial renewal fees.

Failure to pay all of the required fees will result in the non-renewal of MHC licenses.

MHC licenses are renewed triennially. Current MHC licenses expire on June 30, 2008. This is the first renewal period for MHC licenses. The next renewal will occur in 2011, and every three years thereafter. Thus, at each renewal, MHC licensees will be assessed the \$75 required fee, in addition to the triennial renewal fees, until such time that \$61,000 is transferred back to the general fund.

Your renewal notice will be sent in early May 2008.