

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BOARD OF NURSING



Mission

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth by regulating the practice of nursing through licensing of practitioners of nursing, establishing standards for educational programs preparing students for nursing practice, and prescribing penalties for violations of the provisions of the Nurse Practice Act.

NMI Board of Nursing

The Northern Mariana Islands Board of Nursing (NMI BON), formerly as Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners, was created within the Department of Public Health and established for the purpose of regulating the practice of Nursing. Pursuant to public No. 18-25, was re-establish as an autonomous public agency. The Board is comprised of seven (7) board members, having at least one representative from each island (Saipan, Tinian and Rota) and representing all nursing professions and technicians, respectively.

The purpose of the NMI BON is to provide for the regulation of the practice of nursing affecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by regulating the practice of nursing and defining its powers and duties, including licensure of practitioners of nursing, establishing standards for educational programs preparing students for nursing practice, and prescribing penalties for violations of the provisions of the Nurse Practice Act (NPA).



Our Goals

1. *Protect the integrity of quality care by nursing professions.*
2. *Regulate and enforce the adopted rules & regulation in accordance with the law.*
3. *Continue to evaluate prelicensure nursing education requirement and monitor providers licensed under the NMI BON.*
4. *Implement quality service and standard compliance.*
5. *Open and consistent communication.*

Fiscal Year 2024
Citizen-Centric Report
Pursuant to PL 20-83

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GOVERNANCE

Board Members

Roca Q. Sablan
Board Chairwoman,
Saipan Representative

Evita A. Kawai
Board Vice Chair,
Discipline Committee Chair
Saipan Representative

Milescelyn R. Gurrero
Board Secretary,
Education Committee Chair
Saipan Representative

Anna V. Diaz
Board Member
Saipan Representative

Rafaela O. Perry
Board Member
Saipan Rep., Public Comm.Rep.

Shirley L. Villanueva
Board Member
Rota Representative

Irene Rose D. King
Board Member
Tinian Representative



Purpose: To provide for the regulation of the practice of nursing in health, safety, and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by regulating the practice of nursing.

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Board Chairwoman Roca Q. Sablan has been recognized by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) as the recipient of the prestigious **5-Year Executive Officer (EO) Award** at the 2024 NCSBN Annual Meeting. This esteemed award honored Ms. Sablan's exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment to nursing regulation, and significant contributions to the NCSBN's mission. Her recognition is a testament to the vital role of nursing boards and their leaders in advancing healthcare quality and protecting public safety through effective regulation and oversight.



License Report

In Fiscal Year 2024 ("FY 2024"), the NMI BON issued **1,966** licenses in the following profession, as regulated:

- Advance Practice Registered Nursing (APRN): **12**
- Registered Nurse (RN): **1,912**
- Licensed Practical Nurse (PN/LPN): **5**
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA): **33**
- Graduate Nurse (GN): **2**
- Hemodialysis Technician (HT): **2**
- Surgical/Psychiatric Technician (ST/PT): **0**



The NMI BON board members and staff held a meeting with representatives from various nursing agencies in the Philippines. During this meeting, NMI BON staff provided an overview and introductory training on the Optimal Regulatory Board System (ORBS).

In addition to the training, Board members engaged in discussions regarding the ongoing transition to the new system, as well as various regulatory updates and changes to processes. These conversations allowed for a productive exchange of information and feedback, ensuring that all parties are aligned on the Board's evolving procedures and digital transformation efforts.

Furthermore, the NMI BON team conducted visits to several nursing programs that have students applying to sit for the NCLEX through the Board. The team had the opportunity to observe the program facilities, review the curriculum, and meet with the relevant nursing faculty members. These discussions focused on the current cohorts and provided valuable insight into the structure and quality of the nursing programs.

On the other hand, the Board provides ongoing training for both staff and board members in investigative procedures. Majority of the board members and staff have already completed certification and hold investigator badges. Additionally, some members have successfully completed the first and second tier of investigative training in Austin, Texas, further enhancing the Board's capacity to effectively carry out its regulatory responsibilities.



Mission: To protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by regulating the practice of nursing and practitioners.

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During the transition period, there was a noticeable decline in initial applications for the NCLEX exam. However, there was an increase in renewal applications. This suggests that more nurses may be maintaining their licenses, which could be due to factors such as an increased focus on workforce retention or changes in licensing requirements that encourage renewals. Furthermore, the discontinuation of wallet cards and physical certificates led to increased inquiries or requests for alternative ways to verify their professional status., as illustrated in Table 1.

As illustrated in Table 2, expenditures involves acquiring new hardware and software tools necessary for the digitization of paper files and hiring temporary data clerks to facilitate the successful completion of this digitization project. These expenditures are essential for the efficient implementation of ORBS, ensuring that the

TABLE 2: EXPENDITURES

1. Salaries & Benefits: \$247,444.73
2. Operational Expenses: \$97,767.32
3. Travel: \$136,309.85
4. Board Compensation: \$90.00
5. Office Rent: \$16,105.00
6. Donation: \$7,500.00

TOTAL: \$500,216.90



The budget for FY 2024 is derived from the NMI BON application fees and renewals/reinstatements. The revenue and expenditures are shown in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.

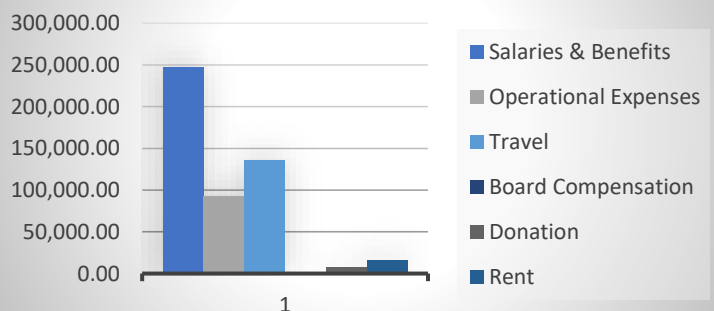
TABLE 1: REVENUE RESOURCES

1. Application Fee: \$360,780.00
 2. Renewal/Reinstatement: \$228,061.00
 3. Other
(license, verification, etc.)_ \$52,425.50
- TOTAL: \$641,266.50**

REVENUE 2024



EXPENDITURE 2024





Future Outlook: The Board strives to ensure quality education of the nursing program in the Commonwealth and protect the integrity of quality care by nursing professions.

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BSN Nursing (female) students



Nursing Program Director and staff

University of Makati (Makati, Philippines)

University of Baguio



With the Dean, Nursing Program



Nursing Program Staff and Faculty



BSN Students

Future Outlook

The Northern Mariana Islands Board of Nursing (NMI BON) is taking an important step in updating its Administrative Rules and Regulations to ensure that healthcare practitioners continue to provide safe, competent care. Addressing these changes is crucial, given the ever-evolving nature of healthcare, including advancements in technology, medical practices, and patient care standards.

Some key points regarding the update process might include:

1. **Incorporating Current Standards:** The administrative rules and regulations need to reflect the latest standards and practices in nursing and healthcare.
2. **Ensuring Competency:** The updates might include provisions that ensure healthcare professionals remain accountable for their practice, perhaps by updating continuing education requirements, certification processes, and the protocols for assessing practitioner competence.
3. **Patient Safety:** Updating regulations to enhance patient safety might include new protocols for infection control, patient rights, and treatment practices that reflect current health and safety standards.
4. **Regulatory Compliance:** Changes to administrative rules may also address evolving state, national, or federal laws and policies, ensuring that NMI BON regulations comply with broader healthcare laws.

These updates will be announced through NMI BON's official website clearly, ensuring that all practitioners are aware of the changes and any new requirements they may need to follow.