



HAWAI'I STATE CENTER FOR NURSING

Connecting Nurses. Transforming Healthcare.

Hawai'i's Nursing Continuing Competency Requirements Frequently Asked Questions

What is continuing competency?

Continuing competency is a commitment to lifelong learning. The American Nurses Association states: "The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including responsibility to preserve integrity and safety, to maintain competence, and to continue personal and professional growth."

In 2015, Hawai'i passed Act 127, which requires licensed practical and registered nurses in the State of Hawai'i to complete a continuing competency activity for re-licensure.

Is anyone exempt from this requirement?

LPNs, RNs and APRNs, licensed in the state, with a current national certification are exempt from this requirement.

An LPN or RN who graduated or completed pre-licensure requirements from an accredited nursing program within 12 months before the date of the nurse's first license renewal period.

Modified requirements exist for LPNs and RNs who graduated more than 12 months but less than 24 months before the renewal date (June 30 of every odd year). Please seek more information from the Hawai'i BON at <http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/nursing/>.

When will LPNs and RNs have to start continuing competency?

Starting in 2017, practical and registered nurses in Hawai'i are required to complete continuing competency activities for their next license renewal. The first time nurses will need to confirm they completed these activities is in 2019 when they renew their license.

Will the Hawai'i BON grant extensions?

The Hawai'i BON may grant extensions for this requirement for illness or military service. Written request for an extension with supporting documentation must be submitted to the Hawai'i BON prior to the license renewal and continuing competency completion deadline (June 30 of every odd year). Please seek more information from the Hawai'i BON at <http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/nursing/>.

What is the role of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing?

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is non-profit organization that works to support nurses through research on the nursing workforce and programs and activities that support nurses throughout their career pathways. The Center is supporting the Hawai'i BON to ensure awareness of these nursing continuing competency requirements in Hawai'i.

The Advisory Board and Executive Leadership includes:

- Art Gladstone - Hawai'i Pacific Health – Straub Clinic & Hospital
- Susan Young - University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu
- Susan Lee - Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation O'ahu Region
- Beth Hoban - Prime Care Services Hawai'i, Inc.
- Franciso Conde II - The Queen's Medical Center Cancer Center
- Barbara Kooker - The Queen's Medical Center
- Lynn Milligan – Leahi Hospital
- Kari Lum - Hawai'i Medical Service Association
- Mary Boland - University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene
- Laura Reichhardt – Director
- Sandra LeVasseur – Associate Director



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The following are approved learning activity options for nursing continuing competency. Select one to complete each license period.

- ✓ **National certification** or recertification related to the nurse's practice role **OR**
- ✓ **Thirty contact hours** of continuing education activities **OR**
- ✓ Completion of a **board approved refresher course** **OR**
- ✓ Completion of a minimum of **two semester credits** of post-licensure academic education related to nursing practice from an accredited nursing program **OR**
- ✓ **Participation as a preceptor**, for at least one nursing student or employee transitioning into new clinical practice areas for at least **one hundred twenty hours**, as part of an organized preceptorship program **OR**
- ✓ Completion as **principal or co-principal** investigator of a nursing research project or evidence-based practice project that has been preapproved by the board **OR**
- ✓ **Authoring or coauthoring** a peer reviewed published nursing or health-related article, book, or book chapter **OR**
- ✓ **Developing and conducting a nursing education presentation** or presentations totaling a minimum of five contact hours of actual organized instruction that qualifies as continuing education **OR**
- ✓ Completion of a board-recognized nurse **residency program**

Hawai'i State Center for Nursing

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<http://hawaiiCENTERFORnursing.org/>



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