



License Fee Support for the Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing

Background

The Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing is a nursing workforce center established in state law in 2003 with Act 75, SLH 2006 (HRS 304A-1406-1407 and HRS 457-9.5). It was developed to ensure that Hawai‘i has the needed nurses to provide safe, quality nursing care to the people of Hawai‘i. The mission of the Center is through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development; promotes a diverse workforce and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai‘i. In 2021, the Center was described by state partners as “the big voice in nursing” and “the switch board to nursing”. Both descriptors demonstrate responsiveness to the call to action set forth in 2003 and relevance and continued need, today.

The Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing is seeking an increase of nursing license fees from \$40 per license biennium to \$60 per license biennium and for mandatory engagement in the nursing workforce supply survey. The workforce survey requirement ensures policy makers and nursing leaders have the information needed critical for planning public health and safety matters.

Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing Contributions to Hawai‘i

The Center has demonstrated competence and commitment to Hawai‘i. Our impact includes including:

- ▼ Producing the largest and most comprehensive compilation of nursing voices since 2007 through the Nursing Workforce Supply Survey.
- ▼ Forging and sustaining academic-practice partnerships resulting in Hawai‘i having one of the most highly educated nursing workforces in the nation
- ▼ Launching the first statewide collaboratives for evidence-based practice and nurse residency programs.
- ▼ Coordinating the call for nurses during the COVID-19 emergency which yielded nearly 1,900 nurse responses.
- ▼ Leading the organized effort to strategize COVID-19 surge capacity plans for nurses and providers.

In addition to the above, core work for the Center includes:

Workforce Research	Quality Practices and Best Outcomes	Recruitment and Retention (strategy and outcomes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ Nursing Workforce Supply Survey and Report ▼ Education Capacity Survey and Report ▼ Education Capacity School-to-State Report ▼ Infographics ▼ Interactive data dashboard ▼ Special data reports and briefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ Evidence-Based Practice clinician, educator, and leadership trainings ▼ Writing manuscripts for publication workshop ▼ ANCC accredited provider unit for continuing nursing education ▼ Promotion of nursing national certification ▼ Simulation best practices ▼ Academic Progression in Nursing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ Clinical education coordination ▼ Preceptor development ▼ New graduate nurse residency ▼ Policy and regulation updates and education ▼ APRN orientation and onboarding support ▼ Team-based care models ▼ Innovations in academic-practice partnerships

Alternate versions of this document will be provided upon request. Email HSCFN@hawaii.edu for support.

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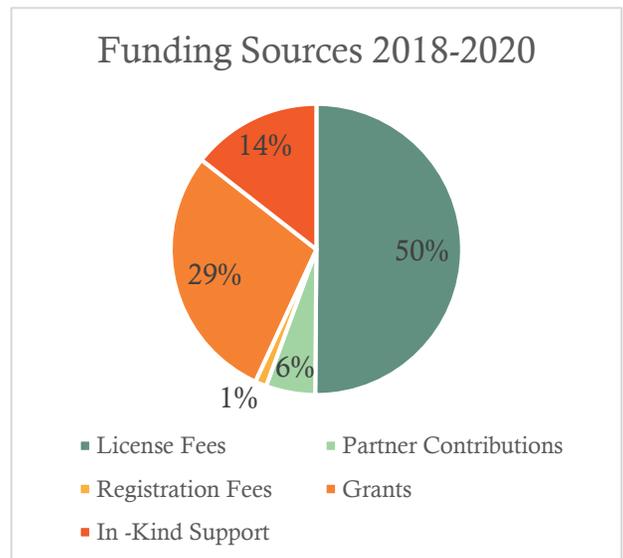
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Need for Continued Funding

- ✦ COVID-19 required increased work effort to ensure the public safety of the people of Hawai'i and ensure the needed number of nurses to provide care in this State. Critical efforts from the Center supported official State responses, diverted nurses to critical shortage areas, developed statewide alternate staffing plans, launched professional development at the emerging pandemic point in time, and ensured continuity of services and nursing workforce development.
- ✦ Partners and stakeholders report need for expansion of services including broadened support for clinical placement coordination, increased continuing education offerings and diversification of topics offered, responsive workforce research reporting by county, island, license and specialty, and interprofessional healthcare workforce development.
- ✦ The staffing model enacted in the original legislation was based on a three staff person model. Today the Center includes five full time and two part time personnel, nine advisory board members and convenes working collaboratives of nurse and healthcare leaders, statewide, on many state nursing initiatives.
- ✦ Partner and extramural funding fiscally underwrite programs and projects, however these funds support but do not sustain the mission and core work of the Center for Nursing.
- ✦ Workforce research became a critical component to responding to the nursing demands required during the 2020 COVID-19 response. Comprehensive responses by nurses are required to ensure evidence-based policy and practice responses during emergency situations that deplete nursing supply including natural disaster, epidemics and pandemics.

Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Budget

The Center began operating in 2005 and is primarily funded through a \$40 license fee, which is assessed upon initial licensure and biennial license renewal to all LPN and RNs licensed in this state. This \$40 biennial fee has not changed since 2003, despite increases in cost of business and general inflation. Between 2003 and 2021, Hawai'i saw a 176% increase for single family homes, 62% increase in minimum wage, 268% increase in UH Annual resident tuition. Similarly, human resource fees (salary and fringe) grew since 2005, yet the base license fee amount has remained the same. This fee increase is equivalent to a \$1 increase per year of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's existence and will ensure fiscal sustainability and ability to continue to work towards the mission and mandates well into the next decade.



Responding to the changing budgetary dynamic, the Center increased its program and special project funding through partner contribution, registration fees, and grant funding. While this supports emerging issues and topics, an overabundance of grant funds will detract from the Center's ability to work towards its mission and ultimate purpose. Nurse driven fees sustain the Center's work towards the mandates and ultimate drive to support public safety by ensuring a robust nursing workforce across the Hawaiian Islands.

What would happen without the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing?

- ✦ Our state would struggle to maintain nursing academic enrollment at the numbers needed to sustain our in-state nursing workforce.
- ✦ Our state would lose critical nursing workforce and supply information that is used for policy making, emergency planning, and academic development.
- ✦ Rural communities on neighbor islands would lose resources and support the Center has committed to providing.
- ✦ The statewide nursing community would lose the centralized location for communication, coordination, strategy, and action.