

# NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BOARD OF NURSING



Fiscal Year 2025  
Citizen-Centric Report  
Pursuant to PL 20-83

## 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 Treasurer &  
Education Committee Chair*  
Saipan Representative

**Irene D. King**  
*Board Secretary*  
Tinian Representative

**Shirley L. Villanueva**  
*Board Member*  
LPN / Rota Representative

**Selma S. Taitano**  
*Board Member*  
CNA/CHT, Saipan  
Representative

**Rafaela O. Perry**  
*Board Member*  
Public Community Rep.



## 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).

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## 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 BON GOALS

1. Protect the integrity and quality of nursing care.
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. Ensure implementation of quality services and compliance with established standards.
5. Maintain open, consistent, and effective communication.





*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.*

## *License Report*

In Fiscal Year 2025 (“FY 2025”), the NMI BON issued **675** licenses in the following profession, as regulated:

- Advance Practice Registered Nursing (APRN): **11**
- Registered Nurse (RN): **636**
- Licensed Practical Nurse (PN/LPN): **3**
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA): **24**
- Graduate Nurse (GN): **0**
- Hemodialysis Technician (HT): **1**
- Surgical/Psychiatric Technician (ST/PT): **0**

The NMI Board of Nursing proudly participates each year in the NCSBN Midyear and Annual Meetings. These gatherings bring together all U.S. state and territorial boards, along with associate members, to share updates on nursing regulation, new legislation, and emerging technologies shaping the profession. Through these collaborations, the Board stays informed and actively engaged in the ongoing advancement of nursing practice and public protection.

In addition to participating in educational conferences and regulatory meetings, Board members and staff completed the Specialized National Certified Investigator & Inspector Training Program and the Applied Investigative Technique. This certification equips the NMI BON team with advanced skills in interviewing, investigative analysis, and the development of comprehensive investigative reports—strengthening the Board’s capacity to protect the public through effective regulation.

With substance use disorder becoming increasingly prevalent within the nursing profession, the Board sought to deepen its understanding of the factors that contribute to this issue. This effort also enabled the Board to explore effective approaches for supporting nurses in recovery and promoting their safe return to practice without stigma or prejudice. Therefore, the Board participated in the National Organization of Alternative Programs (NOAP) conference, gaining valuable insights into best practices for supporting nurses with substance use disorders and guiding their successful return to safe practice.

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Board Chairwoman Roca Sablan and Board Secretary Irene King represented the Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. territory voting member, at the 2025 National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois.



Board members Roca Sablan and Milesceilyn R. Guerrero attended the NOAP conference

**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.**



The budget for FY 2025 is derived from the NMI BON application fees, renewals & reinstatements and other fees such as license verifications, license card, certificates, etc.

The revenue and expenditures are shown in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.

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**TABLE 1: REVENUE RESOURCES**

1. Application Fee	: \$184,685.00
2. Renewal/Reinstatement:	\$281,386.25
3. <u>Others*</u>	: \$30,610.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$496,681.25</b>



**FY: 2025 REVENUE**

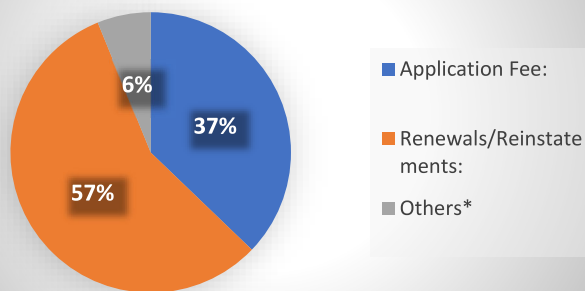


Table 1 highlights a notable decline in NCLEX RN/PN and retake applications submitted to the NMI Board of Nursing compared with the previous fiscal year. This downward trend is also reflected in the number of licenses issued, with many applicants citing financial challenges as a contributing factor. Conversely, there has been a noticeable increase in renewal and reinstatement fees, driven by the growing number of nurses seeking employment opportunities abroad.

On the other hand, Table 2 highlights a decrease in operational expenses and salaries, driven in part by the transition to the online portal system, which has reduced paper-based workload. While the Board remains equipped with the appropriate number of staff, overall staffing costs have decreased due to recent employee relocations.

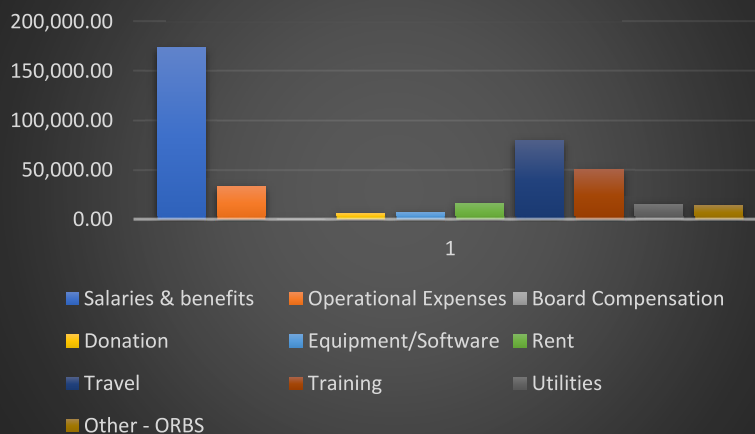
The Board remains diligent in cost-cutting efforts while ensuring it continues to provide high-quality services to the nursing profession. Proactive measures are also in place to ensure staff deliver excellent service all stakeholders, both new and existing.

**TABLE 2: EXPENDITURES**

1. Salaries & Benefits:	\$173,546.02
2. Operational Expenses:	\$33,568.87
3. Board Compensation:	\$150.00
4. Donation:	\$5,900.00
5. Equipment/Software	\$7,287.62
6. Rent:	\$16,005.00
7. Travel:	\$79,610.98
8. Training:	\$50,738.28
9. Utilities:	\$15,347.39
10. <u>Other – ORBS:</u>	<u>\$14,178.00</u>

**TOTAL: \$396,332.16**

**FY: 2025 Expenditure**





*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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## FUTURE OUTLOOK

The NMI Board of Nursing (NMI BON) remains strong and promising as it continues to adapt to the changing healthcare environment.

As healthcare technology, telemedicine, and clinical practices evolve, the NMI BON will increasingly focus on updating regulations to reflect current best practices. This includes ensuring licensure requirements, educational standards, and competency measures remain aligned with national benchmarks.

Boards nationwide are adopting digital systems, and the NMI BON is positioned to expand its use of technology—such as virtual testing, online licensure processes, and electronic tracking of continuing education—to improve efficiency and accessibility for nurses and nurse aides.

The Board is expected to continue refining its disciplinary processes, monitoring standards of practice, and promoting ongoing competency to ensure high-quality patient care.

As the healthcare system becomes more complex, the Board will likely invest further in training and professional development to ensure members and staff remain knowledgeable in regulatory trends, disciplinary procedures, and emerging healthcare issues.



NMI Board of Nursing  
CEDA Bldg., suite 206  
PO Box 501458  
Saipan, MP 96950  
(670)233-2263  
www.nmibon.info

