

JAN 23 2009

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO REGISTERED NURSES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a foreign nursing  
2 school graduate may obtain a license to practice as a registered  
3 nurse in Hawaii either by examination or by endorsement. A  
4 foreign nursing school graduate may obtain a license by  
5 endorsement if the applicant already possesses an unencumbered  
6 license as a registered nurse in another country and, in the  
7 opinion of the board of nursing, meets the qualifications  
8 required of registered nurses in Hawaii at the time of  
9 graduation. If a foreign nursing school graduate does not  
10 already possess a registered nurse license in another country,  
11 the applicant may obtain a Hawaii license by examination by  
12 passing the National Council Licensure Examination and by  
13 complying with applicable requirements of state law and board of  
14 nursing rules that regulate nursing. Section 16-89-8(c), Hawaii  
15 Administrative Rules, requires that a school transcript of a  
16 foreign nursing school graduate applying for a license by  
17 examination be evaluated by a professional educational  
18 credential evaluator recognized by the board and the applicant



1 must arrange to have the evaluator send a report directly to the  
2 board. The Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools  
3 fulfills this credential evaluation function by either issuing a  
4 certification through its international certification program or  
5 by issuing a full education course-by-course report.

6 The international certification program is comprised of  
7 three parts: a credentials review, the international qualifying  
8 examination, and an English proficiency examination. The  
9 current fee for the certification program is \$418. The current  
10 fee for the full education course-by-course report is \$378.

11 The legislature further finds that not all states require  
12 foreign nursing school graduates to undergo these additional  
13 procedures to be licensed to practice as registered nurses. For  
14 example, California does not require a credential evaluation,  
15 applying for and taking the international qualifying  
16 examination, and applying for and taking an English proficiency  
17 examination. Instead, California requires a foreign nursing  
18 school graduate to send a document known as the breakdown of  
19 educational program for international nursing programs form to  
20 the applicant's school with a request for transcript. Hawaii's  
21 rules already require a foreign nursing school graduate to



1 provide a student final record or official transcript sent  
2 directly from the applicant's school to the board of nursing.

3 The purpose of this Act is to require the board of nursing  
4 to adopt rules to remove the requirement for a foreign nursing  
5 school graduate to furnish either a written certification or a  
6 full education course-by-course report as a condition to take  
7 the licensing examination to obtain a license to practice as a  
8 registered nurse in Hawaii.

9 SECTION 2. Section 457-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended by amending subsection (f) to read as follows:

11 "(f) Applicants applying for a license to practice as a  
12 registered nurse by examination shall submit to the board proof  
13 of eligibility. Applicants shall be eligible to apply for a  
14 license by examination if they have:

15 (1) Graduated from a registered nursing program at an  
16 educational institution in the United States or any  
17 territory or possession under the jurisdiction of the  
18 United States and are qualified as determined by the  
19 board through rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91;

20 (2) Graduated from a registered nursing program at an  
21 educational institution in a foreign jurisdiction [and  
22 ~~have had their transcripts evaluated by professional~~



1 ~~evaluators designated by the board]~~ and are considered  
2 qualified as determined by the board through rules  
3 adopted pursuant to chapter 91; or

- 4 (3) Graduated with a bachelor's degree and satisfactorily  
5 completed the pre-licensure portion of a master's  
6 entry program in nursing at an accredited school of  
7 nursing in the United States or any territory or  
8 possession under the jurisdiction of the United States  
9 that is recognized by the board or other state boards  
10 of nursing and are qualified as determined by the  
11 board."

12 SECTION 3. The board of nursing shall adopt rules in  
13 accordance with chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require  
14 a graduate of a foreign nursing school applying for a license to  
15 practice as a registered nurse in Hawaii to arrange for the  
16 applicant's school to send to the board of nursing the breakdown  
17 of educational program for international nursing programs form  
18 along with a certified school transcript; provided that if the  
19 transcript is not in English, a certified English translation  
20 shall also be submitted.

21 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
22 and stricken.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

2

INTRODUCED BY: Clarence J. Puchner



**Report Title:**

Registered Nurses; Foreign Graduates; Licensure Requirements

**Description:**

Removes, for an unlicensed foreign nursing school graduate applying for a registered nurse license in Hawaii, the requirement for a school transcript to be evaluated. Requires board of nursing to adopt rules requiring submission of the breakdown of educational program for international nursing programs form.

