

Public Notice: Hawaii Board of Nursing Action Regarding Florida-Based Nursing Programs

Effective April 10, 2026, the Hawaii Board of Nursing ("the Board") will defer applications for nursing licensure that do not satisfy the requirements set forth in Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §16-89-10.

Regulatory Basis

Under **HAR §16-89-10**, eligibility to sit for the NCLEX-RN is restricted to graduates of state-approved or nationally accredited nursing programs (baccalaureate, graduate-level prelicensure, associate degree, or diploma programs) within the United States, its districts, or territories.

Impact of Operation Nightingale

A federal investigation known as **Operation Nightingale** has identified a network of Florida-based nursing schools involved in a scheme to issue fraudulent nursing diplomas and educational documents.

Because these institutions are neither state-approved nor nationally accredited, they fail to meet the criteria established in HAR §16-89-10. Consequently, the Board will not accept any applications for licensure that rely, in whole or in part, on nursing education provided by the following institutions:

- Azure College
- Azure College, Inc.
- Carleen Health Institute
- Carleen Home Health School II
- Florida College of Health Science
- Florida College of Health Science, Inc.
- Ideal Professional Institute, Inc.
- Jay College of Health LLC
- Med-Life Institute – West Palm Beach
- Med-Life Institute of South Florida
- Med-Life Institute School of Nursing
- Palm Beach School of Nursing
- Quisqueya Health Care Academy
- Quisqueya School of Nursing
- Sacred Heart International Institute Inc.
- Siena College of Health
- Siena College of Health II LLC
- Siena Education Center LLC
- Sigma College
- Sigma Institute of Health Careers
- Sunshine Academy
- Techni-Pro Institute
- The Enfimye Institute

Guidance for Employers

Employers are strongly encouraged to verify the Hawaii nursing license status of both new and existing employees. Careful review of employees' or applicants' nursing education is advised, particularly to ensure that nurses did not receive their education from one of the schools identified above.