



### **NURSING SHORTAGE IN HAWAII BRINGS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA has reported on the present nursing shortage in Hawaii. Hawaii's State Center for Nursing opined that a significant number of nurses and nurse faculty positions will be lost in the next ten years.

A study by the Center for Nursing estimated that the state was short of the equivalent of 960 registered-nurse positions in 2006. The nursing gap is expected to widen in the next several years, with a shortage projection of 2,669 nurses in 2010.

Some of the factors cited on the shortage of nurses in Hawaii were:

1. Hawaii's nursing schools are not turning out enough to meet demand;
2. Shortage of teachers for nursing schools; and
3. More nurses are projected to leave the workforce as they retire.

There are already many Filipino nurses in Hawaii, but they are working as nursing assistants/aides. This is because they have not yet passed the required state

examination for registered nurses. At present, there are two Filipino nurses associations in Honolulu that have been offering free review classes for the state examinations.

The nursing shortage in Hawaii bears watching as it could provide employment opportunities for Philippine nurses to enter the United States as professionals.

Source: Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
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