
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES TO RELAX RESTRICTIONS ON THE ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY NONIMMIGRANT B2 VISAS TO ALLOW GRADUATE NURSES TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAKING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR REGISTERED AND PRACTICAL NURSES, AND TO ALLOCATE MORE EMPLOYMENT VISAS TO INDIVIDUALS TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES TO WORK AS NURSES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is continuing to experience a critical
2 shortage of properly trained registered and practical nurses;
3 and
4

5 WHEREAS, the National Council Licensure Examination is
6 administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing
7 and is designed to test knowledge, skills, and abilities
8 essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the
9 entry level; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the examination is only provided in a computerized
12 adaptive testing format in the United States, including the
13 District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,
14 American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.
15 Candidates may also take the examination in Australia, India,
16 Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Canada, Mexico, Germany, and the
17 United Kingdom; and
18

19 WHEREAS, nurses who have been trained overseas who wish to
20 work in the United States need to:
21

22 (1) Apply for licensure in the state or territory in which
23 the nurse wishes to be licensed;
24

25 (2) Meet all of the eligibility requirements set by the
26 relevant board of nursing to take the examination; and
27

28 (3) Register for and take, and pass the examination; and



1
2 WHEREAS, registrations remain open for one year, during
3 which the relevant board of nursing determines the candidate's
4 eligibility. If the relevant board of nursing fails to meet the
5 time limit, the candidate must wait and re-register for the
6 examination; and
7

8 WHEREAS, for nurses who have been trained overseas who wish
9 to work in the United States and thus who need to obtain a
10 nonimmigrant visa in order to enter the United States to take
11 the required examination, obtaining the visa has become a great
12 hardship particularly because of the restrictive timing of the
13 examination's open registration; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the Immigration and Nationality Act provides a
16 yearly minimum of one hundred forty thousand employment-based
17 immigrant visas that are divided into five preference categories
18 and may require a labor certification from the United States
19 Department of Labor and the filing of a petition with the Bureau
20 of Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Department of
21 Homeland Security; and
22

23 WHEREAS, of the one hundred forty thousand employment
24 visas, 28.6 per cent are allocated for E2 (second preference)
25 visas for professionals holding advanced degrees or a
26 baccalaureate degree and at least five years progressive
27 experience in the profession, or persons of exceptional ability
28 in the arts, sciences, or business; and
29

30 WHEREAS, of the one hundred forty thousand employment
31 visas, another 28.6 per cent are allocated for E3 (third
32 preference) visas for skilled workers, professionals holding
33 baccalaureate degrees, and other workers; and
34

35 WHEREAS, nurses who have been trained overseas wishing to
36 enter the United States to work as registered or practical
37 nurses ordinarily fall into these two employment visa
38 categories; and
39

40 WHEREAS, Hawaii is continuing to experience a critical
41 shortage of properly trained registered and practical nurses and
42 that shortage can be alleviated in great part if:
43



- 1 (1) Restrictions on the issuance of nonimmigrant visas to
- 2 enter the United States to take the examination are
- 3 relaxed; and
- 4
- 5 (2) More E2 and E3 employment visas are allocated for
- 6 nurses who wish to enter the United States and work in
- 7 Hawaii; now, therefore,
- 8

9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 10 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 11 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the United States
 12 Citizenship and Immigration Services is urged to relax
 13 restrictions on the issuance of temporary nonimmigrant B2 visas
 14 to allow graduate nurses to enter the United States for the
 15 purpose of taking the National Council Licensure Examination for
 16 registered and practical nurses, and to allocate more employment
 17 visas to individuals to enter the United States to work as
 18 nurses; and

19
 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 22 United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of
 23 State, the Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland
 24 Security, the Director of the United States Citizenship and
 25 Immigration Services, and the members of Hawaii's congressional
 26 delegation.

27
 28
 29

OFFERED BY:

Alex M. Sun
Dei L. Luukki
Mark Moses
Cindy Evans
Pro Choy

John P. Karaman
Nick P. Kelabane

John A. ...
John B. ...

John F. ...
John G. ...
John H. ...
John I. ...
John J. ...
John K. ...
John L. ...
John M. ...
John N. ...
John O. ...
John P. ...
John Q. ...
John R. ...
John S. ...
John T. ...
John U. ...
John V. ...
John W. ...
John X. ...
John Y. ...
John Z. ...

John A. ...
John B. ...
John C. ...
John D. ...
John E. ...
John F. ...
John G. ...
John H. ...
John I. ...
John J. ...
John K. ...
John L. ...
John M. ...
John N. ...
John O. ...
John P. ...
John Q. ...
John R. ...
John S. ...
John T. ...
John U. ...
John V. ...
John W. ...
John X. ...
John Y. ...
John Z. ...

