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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SR 6

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE CENTER FOR NURSING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO INVESTIGATE AND RECOMMEND WAYS TO ASSIST THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS TO RELIEVE THE NURSING SHORTAGE AND ENSURE A CONTINUOUS, ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF NURSES TO STAFF HOSPITALS AND OTHER MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, recent studies have shown a direct correlation,  
2 particularly with elderly patients, between the amount of time a  
3 nurse spends with each patient each day and the patient's  
4 outcome; and

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6           WHEREAS, the availability of nurses is essential to public  
7 health; and

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9           WHEREAS, however, there are thirty-three states, including  
10 Hawaii, that are experiencing nursing shortages. By 2020, that  
11 number is expected to grow to forty-four states; and

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13           WHEREAS, twenty-eight per cent of the nurses in the  
14 workforce are over fifty years of age, and forty-eight per cent  
15 are between thirty-five and forty-nine years of age; and

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17           WHEREAS, history shows that most nurses retire between the  
18 ages of fifty-three and fifty-six. The impending retirement of  
19 the most highly trained and experienced nurses will exacerbate  
20 the crisis in nursing shortage; and

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22           WHEREAS, as the nursing population moves toward retirement,  
23 hospitals will find it increasingly difficult to attain  
24 sufficient staffing levels; and

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26           WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Center for Nursing at the  
27 University of Hawaii is part of a consortium between providers  
28 and nursing educators that works to ensure that Hawaii has a  
29 sufficient supply of nurses with the skills and competencies to  
30 meet Hawaii's health care needs; and



1           WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Center for Nursing is the hub of  
2 statewide nursing workforce data collection and supports  
3 proactive workforce planning, fosters recruitment initiatives,  
4 and implements, evaluates, and disseminates strategies that lead  
5 to higher levels of job satisfaction and improved retention  
6 among nurses; and  
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8           WHEREAS, the health and well-being of Hawaii residents will  
9 suffer great harm if the State does not move to ensure an  
10 adequate supply of qualified nurses to staff its hospitals and  
11 other medical facilities; now, therefore,  
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13           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the  
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii State  
16 Center for Nursing at the University of Hawaii is requested to  
17 investigate and recommend ways to assist the public and private  
18 sectors to relieve the nursing shortage and ensure a continuous,  
19 adequate supply of nurses to staff hospitals and other medical  
20 facilities in the State; and  
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22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Center for  
23 Nursing is requested to include the following in its  
24 investigation:  
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- 26           (1) Enhancing the University of Hawaii's ability to  
27 educate nurses at an increased capacity;  
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- 29           (2) Determining whether the private sector is interested  
30 in establishing an accredited nursing school in  
31 Hawaii, and what incentives can be offered;  
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- 33           (3) Recruiting individuals with medical training who have  
34 recently separated from the armed forces to enroll in  
35 the University of Hawaii School of Nursing and Dental  
36 Hygiene, and determining whether these individuals can  
37 be awarded academic credit for their military medical  
38 training or experience;  
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- 40           (4) Establishing a program in which nursing students can  
41 be awarded tuition credits if they enter into a  
42 written contract with the School of Nursing and Dental  
43 Hygiene agreeing to work as nurses in the State for a  
44 certain period of time; and



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2 (5) Establishing incentives to recruit nurses from other  
3 states; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Center for  
6 Nursing is further requested to create a five-year strategic  
7 plan to integrate its findings and recommendations; and  
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Center for  
10 Nursing is requested to submit its findings, recommendations,  
11 the five-year strategic plan, and any proposed legislation  
12 necessary to implement the strategic plan, to the Legislature no  
13 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
14 session of 2007; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
18 Board of Regents and the President of the University of Hawaii,  
19 the Dean of the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, the Dean  
20 of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine,  
21 the President of Hawaii Pacific University, the President of the  
22 Hawaii Nurses Association, the Chairperson of the Board of  
23 Nursing, the President of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation,  
24 the Chairperson of the Department of Labor and Industrial  
25 Relations Workforce Development Council, the Chairperson of the  
26 City and County of Honolulu Workforce Investment Board, the  
27 Chancellors of the University of Hawaii community colleges, the  
28 President of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, the President  
29 of Hawaii Pacific Health, the President of Hawaii Air Ambulance,  
30 and the Director of Health who, in turn, is requested to  
31 distribute copies to all hospitals, medical facilities, and  
32 health maintenance organizations in the State.  
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OFFERED BY: 