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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING HEALTHCARE FACILITIES IN THE STATE OF HAWAII TO IMPLEMENT  
THE "UTILIZATION GUIDE FOR THE AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION  
PRINCIPLES FOR SAFE STAFFING."

1           WHEREAS, there is a fundamental need to protect public  
2 health and safety by promoting quality healthcare and improving  
3 the delivery of healthcare services to patients in Hawaii's  
4 healthcare facilities; and

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6           WHEREAS, hospital nurse staffing is a matter of major  
7 concern because of the effects it can have on patient safety and  
8 quality of care; and

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10           WHEREAS, improved medical technology in healthcare delivery  
11 systems have resulted in higher acuity levels among patients;  
12 and

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14           WHEREAS, acuity determines how much care a patient needs;  
15 the higher the acuity level, the greater the amount of care -  
16 often more specialized care - is required; and

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18           WHEREAS, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of  
19 Healthcare Organizations report of 2002 concluded that the lack  
20 of direct care provided by registered nurses contributed to  
21 nearly a quarter of the unanticipated problems that resulted in  
22 injury or death to hospital patients; and

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24           WHEREAS, establishing standards for direct-care registered-  
25 nurse-to-patient ratios that take into account acuity measures  
26 based on the American Nurses Association's staffing principles  
27 will protect nurses and patients from the possible harmful  
28 ramifications of unsafe staffing practices; and

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30           WHEREAS, these standards will address the nursing shortage  
31 in Hawaii, aid in recruitment of new registered nurses and  
32 licensed practical nurses, and improve retention of nurses who



1 are considering leaving direct patient care because of demands  
2 created by constantly inadequate and inappropriate staffing; and  
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4 WHEREAS, it is imperative that patient safety and quality  
5 healthcare be ensured by establishing direct-care registered-  
6 nurse-to-patient staffing requirements in healthcare facilities;  
7 now, therefore,  
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the  
11 House of Representatives concurring, that healthcare facilities  
12 in the State of Hawaii are urged to implement the "Utilization  
13 Guide for the American Nurses Association Principles for Safe  
14 Staffing" and to submit annually data related to:  
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- 16 (1) Concerned staffing forms/documentation received from  
17 nurses providing direct patient care; and  
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- 19 (2) Use of traveling agency nurses and/or agency personnel  
20 (both local and mainland agencies), including:  
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  - 22 (A) The number of hours worked;
  - 23
  - 24 (B) The amount of mandatory and voluntary overtime  
25 hours worked by all nurses providing direct  
26 patient care;
  - 27
  - 28 (C) The number and type of negative patient care  
29 outcomes; and  
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  - 31 (D) The number of employee work-related  
32 injuries/absenteeism within a calendar year;
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34 and  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's healthcare facilities  
37 are requested to work with stakeholders, including:  
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- 39 (1) The Department of Health (DOH)
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- 41 (2) The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH);
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- 43 (3) The Hawaii State Center for Nursing (HSCN);
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- 1 (4) The State Board of Nursing (BON); and
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- 3 (5) The Hawaii Nurses' Association (HNA),
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- 5 to address issues of appropriate staffing levels and patient
- 6 safety; and
- 7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Director of Health,  
 10 President and Chief Executive Officer of HAH, Dean of the  
 11 University of Hawaii's School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene,  
 12 Executive Officer of BON, and Executive Director of HNA.

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OFFERED BY:           *Rosely de Bal*            
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