
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
5
- 6 WHEREAS, nurse staffing is a matter of major concern
7 because of the effects it can have on patient safety and quality
8 of care; and
9
- 10 WHEREAS, improved medical technology in healthcare delivery
11 systems have resulted in higher acuity levels among patients;
12 and
13
- 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 patients; and
23
- 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
29
- 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 constant 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, as a baseline,
6 direct-care registered-nurse-to-patient staffing requirements in
7 healthcare facilities without an acuity system that is based
8 upon the American Nurses Association's staffing principles; now,
9 therefore,
10

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that healthcare facilities
14 in the State of Hawaii, including but not limited to acute care
15 facilities, long term care and skilled nursing facilities,
16 dialysis units, hospice facilities, ambulatory surgical centers,
17 and psychiatric facilities, are urged to implement the
18 "Utilization Guide for the American Nurses Association
19 Principles for Safe Staffing"; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Center for Nursing is
22 requested to convene a working group of stakeholders, including:
23

- 24 (1) The Department of Health (DOH)
- 25
- 26 (2) The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH);
- 27
- 28 (3) Hawaii Long Term Care Association (HLTCA);
- 29
- 30 (4) The Hawaii State Center for Nursing (HSCN);
- 31
- 32 (5) The State Board of Nursing (BON); and
- 33
- 34 (6) The Hawaii Nurses' Association (HNA),
- 35

36 to address issues of appropriate staffing levels and patient
37 safety; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's health care
40 facilities, such as acute care facilities, long term care and
41 skilled nursing facilities, dialysis units, hospice facilities,
42 ambulatory surgical centers, and psychiatric facilities are
43 requested to provide the Center for Nursing annual data related
44 to:



- 1 (1) Concerned staffing forms/documentation received from
- 2 nurses providing direct patient care; and
- 3
- 4 (2) Use of traveling agency nurses and/or agency personnel
- 5 (both local and mainland agencies), including:
- 6
- 7 (A) The number of hours worked;
- 8
- 9 (B) The amount of mandatory and voluntary overtime
- 10 hours worked by all nurses providing direct
- 11 patient care;
- 12
- 13 (C) The number and type of negative patient care
- 14 outcomes; and
- 15
- 16 (D) The number of nursing employee work-related
- 17 injuries/absenteeism within a calendar year; and
- 18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Center for Nursing is
20 requested to submit a status report of its findings and
21 recommendations to the Legislature twenty days prior to the
22 Regular Session of 2007; and

23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Center for Nursing,
26 the Director of Health, the Dean of the University of Hawaii's
27 School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, the Executive Officer of
28 the Board of Nursing, the Executive Director of Hawaii Nurses'
29 Association, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the
30 Healthcare Association of Hawaii, the Hawaii Long Term Care
31 Association, the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Hospice
32 Hawaii, Liberty Dialysis, and Kahi Mohala.

