
SENATE 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
33 are considering leaving direct patient care because of demands
34 created by constantly inadequate and inappropriate staffing; and



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 2 WHEREAS, it is imperative that patient safety and quality
 3 healthcare be ensured by establishing direct-care registered-
 4 nurse-to-patient staffing requirements in healthcare facilities;
 5 now, therefore,

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 7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
 8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
 9 that healthcare facilities in the State of Hawaii are urged to
 10 implement the "Utilization Guide for the American Nurses
 11 Association Principles for Safe Staffing" and to submit annually
 12 data related to:

- 13
 14 (1) Concerned staffing forms/documentation received from
 15 nurses providing direct patient care; and
 16
 17 (2) Use of traveling agency nurses and/or agency personnel
 18 (both local and mainland agencies), including:
 19
 20 (A) The number of hours worked;
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 22 (B) The amount of mandatory and voluntary overtime
 23 hours worked by all nurses providing direct
 24 patient care;
 25
 26 (C) The number and type of negative patient care
 27 outcomes; and
 28
 29 (D) The number of employee work-related
 30 injuries/absenteeism within a calendar year;

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 32 and

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 34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's healthcare facilities
 35 are requested to work with stakeholders, including:

- 36
 37 (1) The Department of Health (DOH)
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 39 (2) The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH);
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 41 (3) The Hawaii State Center for Nursing (HSCN);
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 43 (4) The State Board of Nursing (BON); and
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1 (5) The Hawaii Nurses' Association (HNA),
 2
 3 to address issues of appropriate staffing levels and patient
 4 safety; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 7 Resolution be transmitted to Director of Health, President and
 8 Chief Executive Officer of HAH, Dean of the University of
 9 Hawaii's School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, Executive Officer
 10 of BON, and Executive Director of HNA.
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