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# 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, 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

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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 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 constant inadequate and inappropriate staffing; and

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1 WHEREAS, it is imperative that patient safety and quality  
2 healthcare be ensured by establishing, as a baseline,  
3 direct-care registered-nurse-to-patient staffing requirements in  
4 healthcare facilities without an acuity system that is based  
5 upon the American Nurses Association's staffing principles; now,  
6 therefore,

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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,  
10 that healthcare facilities in the State of Hawaii, including but  
11 not limited to acute care facilities, long term care and skilled  
12 nursing facilities, dialysis units, hospice facilities,  
13 ambulatory surgical centers, and psychiatric facilities, are  
14 urged to implement the "Utilization Guide for the American  
15 Nurses Association Principles for Safe Staffing"; and

16  
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Center for Nursing is  
18 requested to convene a working group of stakeholders, including:

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20 (1) The Department of Health (DOH)  
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22 (2) The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH);  
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24 (3) Hawaii Long Term Care Association (HLTCA);  
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26 (4) The Hawaii State Center for Nursing (HSCN);  
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28 (5) The State Board of Nursing (BON); and  
29  
30 (6) The Hawaii Nurses' Association (HNA),

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32 to address issues of appropriate staffing levels and patient  
33 safety; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's health care  
36 facilities, such as acute care facilities, long term care and  
37 skilled nursing facilities, dialysis units, hospice facilities,  
38 ambulatory surgical centers, and psychiatric facilities are  
39 requested to provide the Center for Nursing annual data related  
40 to:

- 41  
42 (1) Concerned staffing forms/documentation received from  
43 nurses providing direct patient care; and  
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- 1           (2) Use of traveling agency nurses and/or agency personnel
- 2            (both local and mainland agencies), including:
- 3
- 4            (A) The number of hours worked;
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- 6            (B) The amount of mandatory and voluntary overtime
- 7            hours worked by all nurses providing direct
- 8            patient care;
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- 10           (C) The number and type of negative patient care
- 11            outcomes; and
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- 13           (D) The number of nursing employee work-related
- 14            injuries/absenteeism within a calendar year; and
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16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Center for Nursing is  
17 requested to submit a status report of its findings and  
18 recommendations to the Legislature twenty days prior to the  
19 Regular Session of 2007; and

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

