
SENATE RESOLUTION

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

8
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

12
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

16
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

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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,
15 that the Hawaii State Center for Nursing at the University of
16 Hawaii is requested to investigate and recommend ways to assist
17 the public and private sectors to relieve the nursing shortage
18 and ensure a continuous, adequate supply of nurses to staff
19 hospitals and other medical facilities in the State; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Center for
22 Nursing is requested to include the following in its
23 investigation:
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- 25 (1) Enhancing the University of Hawaii's ability to
26 educate nurses at an increased capacity;
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- 28 (2) Determining whether the private sector is interested
29 in establishing an accredited nursing school in
30 Hawaii, and what incentives can be offered;
31
- 32 (3) Recruiting individuals with medical training who have
33 recently separated from the armed forces to enroll in
34 the University of Hawaii School of Nursing and Dental
35 Hygiene, and determining whether these individuals can
36 be awarded academic credit for their military medical
37 training or experience;
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- 39 (4) Establishing a program in which nursing students can
40 be awarded tuition credits if they enter into a
41 written contract with the School of Nursing and Dental
42 Hygiene agreeing to work as nurses in the State for a
43 certain period of time; and
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1 (5) Establishing incentives to recruit nurses from other
2 states; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Center for
5 Nursing is further requested to create a five-year strategic
6 plan to integrate its findings and recommendations; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Center for
9 Nursing is requested to submit its findings, recommendations,
10 the five-year strategic plan, and any proposed legislation
11 necessary to implement the strategic plan, to the Legislature no
12 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
13 session of 2007; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
17 Regents and the President of the University of Hawaii, the Dean
18 of the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, the Dean of the
19 University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, the
20 President of Hawaii Pacific University, the President of the
21 Hawaii Nurses Association, the Chairperson of the Board of
22 Nursing, the President of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation,
23 the Chairperson of the Department of Labor and Industrial
24 Relations Workforce Development Council, the Chairperson of the
25 City and County of Honolulu Workforce Investment Board, the
26 Chancellors of the University of Hawaii community colleges, the
27 President of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, the President
28 of Hawaii Pacific Health, the President of Hawaii Air Ambulance,
29 and the Director of Health who, in turn, is requested to
30 distribute copies to all hospitals, medical facilities, and
31 health maintenance organizations in the State.
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OFFERED BY: *Randy H. Puh*

