

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1444 -06

Honolulu, Hawaii

8-15, 2006

RE: H.C.R. No. 83

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 83
entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this concurrent resolution is to increase
safety in healthcare facilities by requesting the implementation
of the "Utilization Guide For The American Nurses Association
Principles For Safe Staffing," which provides guidelines for
optimal registered-nurse-to-patient ratios to ensure accuracy and
reliability in patient safety and treatment.

The Hawaii Nurses' Association supported this concurrent
resolution. The Department of Health supported this measure with
amendments. The Hawaii Government Employees Association supported
the intent of this concurrent resolution with amendments. The
Queen's Medical Center provided comments.

Your Committee finds that there is a fundamental need to
protect public health and safety by promoting quality healthcare
and improving the delivery of healthcare services to patients in
Hawaii's healthcare facilities. However, the Joint Commission on
Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations report of 2002 concluded
that the lack of direct care provided by registered nurses
contributed to nearly a quarter of the unanticipated problems that

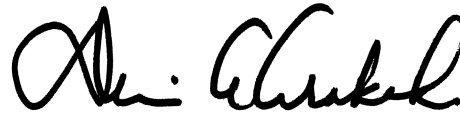
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resulted in injury or death to hospital patients. Therefore, establishing standards for direct-care, registered-nurse-to-patient ratios that take into account acuity measures based on the American Nurses Association's staffing principles will protect nurses and patients from the possible harmful ramifications of unsafe staffing practices.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 83 and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



DENNIS A. ARAKAKI, Chair



