

Honolulu, Hawaii

Apr: 15, 2006

RE: H.R. No. 63

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.R. No. 63
entitled:

"HOUSE 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 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 resolution.
The Department of Health supported this measure with amendments.
The Hawaii Government Employees Association supported the intent
of this 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
resulted in injury or death to hospital patients. Therefore,

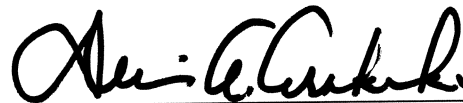
HR63 HSCR HLT HMS 2006-3267



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.R. No. 63 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



