

A Bill for an Act Relating to Hospital Licensing.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§321- **Hospitals; licensing.** (a) All hospitals shall be licensed by the department to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the individuals placed therein.

(b) The director shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter 91 that shall provide for the licensing of hospitals.

(c) The rules may provide that accreditation by the joint commission on accreditation of healthcare organizations demonstrates a hospital’s compliance with all licensing inspections required by rules for the year in which the joint commission on accreditation of healthcare organizations accreditation is issued. The rules may exempt a hospital from a licensing inspection for the year in which a joint commission on accreditation of healthcare organizations accreditation is issued under the following conditions:

(1) The hospital provides a certified copy of the hospital’s official joint commission on accreditation of healthcare organizations accreditation report to the department;

(2) The hospital holds full accreditation by the joint commission on accreditation of healthcare organizations; and

(3) The hospital holds a current and valid license.

(d) The rules shall provide that the department may conduct inspections and investigations of exempt hospitals to investigate complaints, follow up on adverse accreditation findings, or conduct periodic validation surveys.

(e) Information contained in reports of survey and official accreditation letters made by the joint commission on accreditation of healthcare organizations used in determining compliance with licensing requirements shall be public information.

(f) All other records maintained by the department shall be governed by chapter 92F.”

SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.<sup>1</sup>

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 31, 2002.)

**Note**

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.