

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 01 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2492

S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and  
Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2492, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Allow the Governor to enter the State into the multi-state Nurse Licensure Compact, which will allow a nurse who is licensed by a home state to practice under a multi-state licensure privilege in each party state, effective January 1, 2026; and
- (2) Beginning January 1, 2026, allow the State Board of Nursing to charge different fees for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses who hold a multi-state license issued by the State.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the United States Department of Defense; Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Disability and Communication Access Board; Hawaii Health Systems Corporation; Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, West Hawai'i Region; Hawai'i State Center for Nursing; Hawai'i Primary Care Association; Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i; Palolo Chinese Home; Indivisible Hawaii Healthcare Team; Hawai'i Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives; Hawai'i Pacific Health;



Healthcare Association of Hawaii; Grassroot Institute of Hawaii; Hawai'i Care Choices; The Queen's Health System; Save Medicaid Hawaii; Hawaii Military Affairs Council; Hawaii Young Republicans; and thirteen individuals.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawai'i Nurses' Association - OPEIU Local 50, Hawai'i American Nurses Association, and two individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Board of Nursing.

Your Committees find that the nursing shortage in Hawaii poses challenges to the long-term workload for available nurses and poses a threat to public safety during emergencies. Your Committees also find that the multi-state Nurse Licensure Compact, which allows a nurse who is licensed by a home state to practice under a multi-state licensure privilege in states that are a party to the compact, could help alleviate the State's nursing shortage by allowing more nurses to practice in Hawaii without the burden of obtaining an additional license. In addition, the multi-state Nurse Licensure Compact could allow nurses to quickly cross state borders and provide vital services in the event of a disaster, such as the August 2023 Maui wildfires. Your Committees find that it is in the public interest to allow the Governor to enter the State into the multi-state Nurse Licensure Compact to expand the much-needed pool of qualified nurses and improve health care services statewide.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2040, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2492, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2492, S.D. 2.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Commerce and  
Consumer Protection and  
Judiciary,



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



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J. KEOHOKALOLE, Chair





The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Judiciary**  
**JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 2492 SD1</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HHS, CPN   JDC</b>	Date: <b>02   23   24</b>
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  
 If so, then the previous decision was to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312    
  Pass, with amendments 2311    
 Hold 2310    
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton			✓	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>

Recommendation:      Adopted      Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:  


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**\*Only one measure per Record of Votes**