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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE INCREASED HIRING OF NURSES RESIDENT IN HAWAII AND THE DECREASED HIRING OF FOREIGN NURSES.

WHEREAS, during the last four years, the University of Hawaii and the Community Colleges in the State have prioritized the creation and funding of nursing schools in Honolulu, Maui, Kauai, Leeward Oahu, and Windward Oahu; and

WHEREAS, this effort has materialized and yielded an abundance of nursing school graduates and registered nurses, creating an abundance of nurses to the extent that some of them, especially the new graduates, are unemployed; and

WHEREAS, as a result, in global financial meltdown, the State is experiencing higher levels of unemployment and consequently, decreased access to medical care; and

WHEREAS, the policy of the State should be to employ its own residents and decrease government assistance to those who are unemployed; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the State should employ its own residents first and decrease reliance on imported professionals; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session 25 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Homeland Security is requested to close visa applications for registered nurses and terminate renewals of visa applications for working visas nurses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and the Hawaii Nurses' Association are urged to have the hiring of nurses resident in Hawaii and the training of recent

nursing school graduates in specialty nursing areas prioritized among employers of nurses; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Homeland Security, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Nurses' Association.

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OFFERED BY:

MAR 0 4 2010

Kich albonilla Arakawa