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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ADOPT RULES TO ESTABLISH  
MINIMUM, SPECIFIC, AND NUMERICAL LICENSED NURSE-TO-PATIENT  
RATIOS BY LICENSED NURSE CLASSIFICATION AND BY HOSPITAL  
TYPE FOR ALL HOSPITALS IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, in 1999, California became the first state to  
2 establish minimum registered nurse-to-patient ratios for  
3 hospitals; and  
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5 WHEREAS, final regulations to implement the law were issued  
6 in the summer of 2003, with hospitals required to meet the  
7 staffing ratios by January 2004; and  
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9 WHEREAS, health care services in the State are becoming  
10 complex and it is increasingly difficult for patients to access  
11 integrated services; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the quality of patient care in the State may be  
14 jeopardized due to staffing changes implemented in response to  
15 managed care; and  
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17 WHEREAS, to ensure the adequate protection of Hawaii  
18 residents in acute care settings, it is essential that qualified  
19 registered nurses and other licensed nurses be accessible and  
20 available to meet the needs of patients; now, therefore,  
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the  
24 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
25 Health is urged to adopt rules to establish minimum, specific,  
26 and numerical licensed nurse-to-patient ratios by licensed nurse  
27 classification and by hospital unit for all hospitals licensed  
28 pursuant to section 321-14.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department adopt these  
2 rules in accordance with the Department's licensing and  
3 certification laws pursuant to chapter 321 and chapter 457,  
4 Hawaii Revised Statutes; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department may grant  
7 requests for waivers from rural hospitals if the health, safety,  
8 and well-being of patients are not jeopardized and for increased  
9 operational efficiency; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ratios determined by the  
12 Department constitute the minimum number of registered nurses,  
13 licensed practical nurses, and advanced practice registered  
14 nurses that are allocated; provided that additional staff are  
15 assigned in accordance with a documented patient classification  
16 system for determining nursing care requirements, including the:  
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18 (1) Severity of the illness;  
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20 (2) Need for specialized equipment and technology;  
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22 (3) Complexity of clinical judgment needed to design,  
23 implement, and evaluate the patient care plan and the  
24 ability for self-care; and  
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26 (4) Licensure of the personnel required for care; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all hospitals licensed under  
29 section 321-14.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, adopt written  
30 policies and procedures specifying the nurse-to-patient ratios  
31 determined by the Department; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules adopted by the  
34 Department augment and not replace existing nurse-to-patient  
35 ratios that exist in rule or law for the intensive care unit,  
36 neonatal intensive care units, or operating rooms; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules adopted by the  
39 Department not replace existing licensed staff-to-patient ratios  
40 for mental health hospitals that are operated by the State; and  
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# S.C.R. NO. 99

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*JLM*

