

JAN 25 2016

S.R. NO. 5

SENATE RESOLUTION

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,
24 that the Department of Health is urged to adopt rules to
25 establish minimum, specific, and numerical licensed nurse-to-
26 patient ratios by licensed nurse classification and by hospital
27 unit for all hospitals licensed pursuant to section 321-14.5,
28 Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department adopt these
31 rules in accordance with the Department's licensing and



1 certification laws pursuant to chapter 321 and chapter 457,
2 Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department may grant
5 requests for waivers from rural hospitals if the health, safety,
6 and well-being of patients are not jeopardized and for increased
7 operational efficiency; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ratios determined by the
10 Department constitute the minimum number of registered nurses,
11 licensed practical nurses, and advanced practice registered
12 nurses that are allocated; provided that additional staff are
13 assigned in accordance with a documented patient classification
14 system for determining nursing care requirements, including the:
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16 (1) Severity of the illness;
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18 (2) Need for specialized equipment and technology;
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20 (3) Complexity of clinical judgment needed to design,
21 implement, and evaluate the patient care plan and the
22 ability for self-care; and
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24 (4) Licensure of the personnel required for care; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all hospitals licensed under
27 section 321-14.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, adopt written
28 policies and procedures specifying the nurse-to-patient ratios
29 determined by the Department; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules adopted by the
32 Department augment and not replace existing nurse-to-patient
33 ratios that exist in rule or law for the intensive care unit,
34 neonatal intensive care units, or operating rooms; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules adopted by the
37 Department not replace existing licensed staff-to-patient ratios
38 for mental health hospitals that are operated by the State; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY: John Green

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