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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR NURSING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 198, Session  
2 Laws of Hawaii 2003 (Act 198), established the Hawaii state  
3 center for nursing (HSCN) to collect and analyze data and  
4 prepare and disseminate written reports and recommendations  
5 regarding the current and future status and trends of the  
6 nursing workforce; conduct research on best practices and  
7 quality outcomes; develop a plan for implementing strategies to  
8 recruit and retain nurses; and research, analyze, and report  
9 data related to the retention of the nursing workforce. Act 198  
10 also requires that nurses shall fund the activities of the HSCN  
11 through an additional fee assessed upon the issuance and renewal  
12 of each nurse license.

13           The legislature further finds that, since 2003, the HSCN  
14 has created multiple statewide initiatives and programs to  
15 address nursing workforce needs, prevent anticipated workforce  
16 shortages, and conduct workforce research on the nursing supply  
17 and education capacity for nurse education. Many of these



1 programs are notable for being the first statewide programs in  
2 the nation and having broad partnerships with nursing employers  
3 and schools of nursing. Specifically, the HSCN's Hawaii  
4 Academic Progression in Nursing initiative led the State to  
5 become the most highly educated nursing workforce in the nation  
6 by 2019. The outcomes of increasing the minimum education for  
7 nurses include improved patient care and safety; reduction in  
8 readmission rates, lengths of stay, and deaths; and improved  
9 cost savings. Additionally, the HSCN led the State in  
10 developing the Hawaii Nurse Residency Program Collaborative,  
11 which as of 2020, has facilitated the hiring and support of over  
12 one thousand new graduate nurses in their first year of  
13 employment and increased retention rates.

14 The legislature further finds that HSCN has helped increase  
15 access to health care services in rural and underserved  
16 communities in the State through policy reforms, program  
17 development, and initiating changes in the nursing environment.  
18 Through collaborative efforts led by the HSCN, the advanced  
19 practice registered nurse workforce in the State has doubled,  
20 making health care more accessible especially for neighbor  
21 island residents.



1           The legislature further finds that the HSCN has maintained  
2 continuous workforce research efforts since 2007 and improved  
3 the visibility of the nursing workforce and education capacity.  
4 Most recently, the HSCN produced data reports that the  
5 department of health and the Hawaii emergency management agency  
6 used for crisis response, vaccination planning, and other uses.  
7 The HSCN continues to play a critical role in the response to  
8 the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The HSCN also  
9 participated in increasing relevant, locally-produced, and  
10 accredited nursing professional development content on COVID-19  
11 for nurses in all settings of care, and co-led an initiative  
12 with stakeholders to identify and tactically respond to provider  
13 shortages.

14           The legislature further finds that, since 2003, when the  
15 center for nursing fee was established, the cost of goods and  
16 services have increased in Hawaii. Additionally, the  
17 legislature finds that challenges to securing adequate nursing  
18 workforce supply survey responses have severely limited the  
19 HSCN's ability to continue to inform policy makers, health care  
20 leaders, and others on the availability and characteristics of  
21 the nursing workforce in the State. To ensure public safety



1 during episodes of critical health care demands, including  
2 pandemics and natural disasters, as well as providing robust  
3 nursing care and a resilient nursing workforce at all times,  
4 crucial information and additional funding is needed.

5 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:

6 (1) Require all nurses to respond to the center for  
7 nursing workforce supply survey in conjunction with  
8 license renewal; provided that license renewal shall  
9 not be contingent upon responding to the workforce  
10 supply survey and failure to respond to the workforce  
11 supply survey shall not result in encumbrance of the  
12 nurse's license; and

13 (2) Increase the center for nursing fee from \$40 per  
14 license biennium to \$60 per license biennium.

15 SECTION 2. Section 457-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

17 "(a) The license of every person licensed or granted  
18 prescriptive authority shall expire on June 30 of every odd-  
19 numbered year and shall be renewed biennially, except as  
20 provided in this section. Biennially in each odd-numbered year,  
21 the board shall make available an application for renewal of



1 license before the deadline set forth by the board to every  
2 person to whom a license was issued or renewed during the  
3 biennium. The applicant shall complete the application and  
4 submit it to the board with a renewal fee, and shall also  
5 submit, beginning with the July 1, 2019, licensing biennium, a  
6 full set of electronic fingerprints for the purpose of obtaining  
7 federal and state criminal history record checks in accordance  
8 with section 846-2.7 directly to the Hawaii criminal justice  
9 data center for processing with the Federal Bureau of  
10 Investigation. The applicant shall bear the cost of the  
11 fingerprint processing and the application shall not be  
12 considered complete until the results of the criminal history  
13 record check has been received by the board; and all required  
14 documents on or before the deadline set by the board. The  
15 applicant shall provide documents from proper agencies or  
16 parties of any criminal conviction or any disciplinary action  
17 taken or pending in this State or any other state in the United  
18 States or any territory or possession under the jurisdiction of  
19 the United States within the two years prior to application for  
20 renewal of license. Upon receipt of the application and fee,  
21 the board shall verify the accuracy of the application and issue



1 to the applicant a certificate of renewal for the biennium  
2 expiring two years hence on the deadline set by the board. The  
3 renewal shall render the holder thereof a legal practitioner of  
4 nursing for the period stated on the renewal form. The  
5 applicant shall respond to the center for nursing workforce  
6 supply survey in conjunction with license renewal; provided that  
7 license renewal shall not be contingent upon responding to the  
8 center for nursing workforce supply survey and failure to  
9 respond to the center for nursing workforce supply survey shall  
10 not result in encumbrance of the applicant's license; provided  
11 further that, for purposes of this subsection, "center for  
12 nursing workforce supply survey" means the nursing workforce  
13 supply survey conducted biennially by the center for nursing  
14 that asks nurses to provide information about their  
15 demographics, specialty, setting of work, and other information  
16 necessary to inform the State on the status and characteristics  
17 of the State's nursing workforce."

18 SECTION 3. Section 457-9.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

20 "[+] (a) [+] Upon the issuance of a new license and at each  
21 license renewal period, each nurse shall pay an additional fee



1 of [~~\$407~~] \$60, which shall be deposited in a separate account in  
2 the compliance resolution fund established pursuant to section  
3 26-9(o)."

4 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



**Report Title:**

Center for Nursing; Workforce Supply Survey; License Fees;  
Increase

**Description:**

Requires all nursing license applicants to respond to the center for nursing workforce supply survey in conjunction with license renewal, provided that the license renewal shall not be contingent upon responding to the workforce supply survey and failure to respond to the workforce supply survey shall not result in encumbrance of the nurse's license. Increases the center for nursing fee from \$40 to \$60 per license biennium. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

