
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE CENTER FOR NURSING TO CONVENE A
WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO THE STATE
OF JOINING THE MULTI-STATE NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT.

1 WHEREAS, according to the federal Bureau of Labor
2 Statistics' *Employment Projections 2021-2031*, the registered
3 nurse workforce is expected to grow from 3,130,600 registered
4 nurses in 2021 to 3,326,000 registered nurses in 2031, which is
5 an increase of 195,400 registered nurses or 6.2 percent; and
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7 WHEREAS, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics also
8 projects the average annual number of openings for registered
9 nurses from 2021 through 2031, after factoring in retirements
10 and workforce exits, to be 203,200 openings per year; and
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12 WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii State Center for Nursing,
13 there are 15,072 licensed registered nurses who live and
14 practice in the State; and
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16 WHEREAS, according to the Healthcare Association of
17 Hawaii's *2022 Healthcare Workforce Initiative Report*, there were
18 approximately 1,000 unfilled registered nurse positions in the
19 State; and
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21 WHEREAS, during and following the emergence of the COVID-19
22 pandemic, hospitals, nursing facilities, and other health care
23 practices faced nursing shortages, which continue to exist; and
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25 WHEREAS, shortages in the local nursing workforce require
26 health care facilities to recruit traveling nurses, which can be
27 costlier than hiring a local workforce; and
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29 WHEREAS, the State and health care systems have invested
30 and continue to invest in growing the local nursing and health



1 care professional workforce through expanded educational
2 opportunities, incentives, and other investments; and

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4 WHEREAS, as of January 2023, there were 39 states that are
5 members of the multi-state Nurse Licensure Compact; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Nurse Licensure Compact would enable nurses to
8 practice in person or provide telenursing services to patients
9 located across the country without having to obtain additional
10 licenses; and

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12 WHEREAS, the Nurse Licensure Compact would allow a nurse to
13 work across state borders and provide vital services in the
14 event of disaster; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Nurse Licensure Compact would also allow
17 military spouse nurses to seamlessly continue working without
18 having to obtain new licenses each time they relocate, thus
19 expanding the nursing workforce; and

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21 WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii State Center for Nursing,
22 16 percent of registered nurses plan to retire in the next five
23 years; now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
27 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii State
28 Center for Nursing is requested to convene a working group to
29 study the potential impacts to the State of joining the multi-
30 state Nurse Licensure Compact; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
33 to consist of the following members:

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35 (1) The Director of the Hawaii State Center for Nursing,
36 or the Director's designee, who shall serve as
37 chairperson of the working group;

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39 (2) The Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, or the
40 Director's designee;

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42 (3) A representative of the Regulated Industries
43 Complaints Office of the Department of Commerce and



- 1 Consumer Affairs, to be appointed by the Director of
- 2 Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
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- 4 (4) A representative of the State Board of Nursing, to be
- 5 appointed by the Chairperson of the State Board of
- 6 Nursing;
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- 8 (5) The chairperson of the House of Representatives
- 9 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over
- 10 health, or the chairperson's designee;
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- 12 (6) The chairperson of the House of Representatives
- 13 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over
- 14 consumer protection, or the chairperson's designee;
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- 16 (7) The chairperson of the Senate standing committee with
- 17 primary jurisdiction over health, or the chairperson's
- 18 designee;
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- 20 (8) The chairperson of the Senate standing committee with
- 21 primary jurisdiction over consumer protection, or the
- 22 chairperson's designee; and
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- 24 (9) A representative from each of the following
- 25 organizations:
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- 27 (A) The Hawaii - American Nurses Association;
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- 29 (B) The Hawaii Association of Health Plans;
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- 31 (C) The Hawaii Government Employees Association; and
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- 33 (D) The Healthcare Association of Hawaii; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
 36 to investigate the feasibility and impacts of adopting the
 37 multi-state Nurse Licensure Compact, including:

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- 39 (1) Identification of possible impacts to in- and out-
- 40 migration of registered nurses, including migration
- 41 related to job transfers, travel nursing, and
- 42 telehealth nursing;
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- 1 (2) Identification of any issues regarding the regulation
2 of out-of-state registered nurses, including issues
3 related to recouping costs arising from investigations
4 of consumer complaints or other disciplinary actions;
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- 6 (3) Identification of issues regarding disciplinary
7 actions taken against a multistate-licensed nurse;
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- 9 (4) Identification of issues regarding health care
10 workforce research and planning efforts;
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- 12 (5) Identification of issues regarding disparity in
13 licensure renewal and competency requirements between
14 states;
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- 16 (6) Identification of impacts to jurisdiction and
17 regulatory oversight of nurses in the State;
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- 19 (7) Identification of any fiscal impact to the State and
20 the State's current nursing workforce; and
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- 22 (8) Any other matters the working group deems relevant;
23 and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
26 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
27 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
28 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
29 of 2025; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce
33 and Consumer Affairs, Director of the Hawaii State Center for
34 Nursing, Executive Director of the Hawaii - American Nurses
35 Association, President of the Hawaii Association of Health
36 Plans, President of the Hawaii Government Employees Association,
37 and President and Chief Executive Officer of the Healthcare
38 Association of Hawaii.
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