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# HOUSE 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  
31          care professional workforce through expanded educational  
32          opportunities, incentives, and other investments; and



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2 WHEREAS, as of January 2023, there were 39 states that are  
3 members of the multi-state Nurse Licensure Compact; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the Nurse Licensure Compact would enable nurses to  
6 practice in person or provide telenursing services to patients  
7 located across the country without having to obtain additional  
8 licenses; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the Nurse Licensure Compact would allow a nurse to  
11 work across state borders and provide vital services in the  
12 event of disaster; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the Nurse Licensure Compact would also allow  
15 military spouse nurses to seamlessly continue working without  
16 having to obtain new licenses each time they relocate, thus  
17 expanding the nursing workforce; and  
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19 WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii State Center for Nursing,  
20 16 percent of registered nurses plan to retire in the next five  
21 years; now, therefore,  
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
24 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
25 Session of 2023, that the Hawaii State Center for Nursing is  
26 requested to convene a working group to study the potential  
27 impacts to the State of joining the multi-state Nurse Licensure  
28 Compact; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
31 to consist of the following members:  
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- 33 (1) The Director of the Hawaii State Center for Nursing,  
34 or the Director's designee, who shall serve as  
35 chairperson of the working group;  
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37 (2) The Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, or the  
38 Director's designee;  
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40 (3) A representative of the Regulated Industries  
41 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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- (2) Identification of any issues regarding the regulation of out-of-state registered nurses, including issues related to recouping costs arising from investigations of consumer complaints or other disciplinary actions;
- (3) Identification of issues regarding disciplinary actions taken against a multistate-licensed nurse;
- (4) Identification of issues regarding health care workforce research and planning efforts;
- (5) Identification of issues regarding disparity in licensure renewal and competency requirements between states;
- (6) Identification of impacts to jurisdiction and regulatory oversight of nurses in the State;
- (7) Identification of any fiscal impact to the State and the State's current nursing workforce; and
- (8) Any other matters the working group deems relevant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Director of the Hawaii State Center for Nursing, Executive Director of the Hawaii - American Nurses Association, President of the Hawaii Association of Health Plans, President of the Hawaii Government Employees Association, and President and Chief Executive Officer of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii.