

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk  
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 13, 2025

Honorable Members of the House of Representatives  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
(Via Email Only: reps@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Dear Members of the House of Representatives:

Enclosed for your information and files is a certified copy of Resolution No. 2025-18 – "RESOLUTION URGING THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE TO IMPLEMENT SAFE NURSE-TO-PATIENT STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR HOSPITALS," which was approved by the Kaua'i County Council on February 12, 2025.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or the Office of the County Clerk, Council Services Division, at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA  
County Clerk, County of Kaua'i

:slr  
Enclosure

# COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF KAUAI

## Resolution No. 2025-18

### RESOLUTION URGING THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE TO IMPLEMENT SAFE NURSE-TO-PATIENT STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR HOSPITALS

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WHEREAS, within the County of Kaua'i and throughout the State of Hawai'i, there exists a persistent healthcare staffing shortage that has resulted in variable and often inadequate staff-to-patient ratios, leading to negative patient outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, the statewide housing crisis and the rising cost of living, exacerbated by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, have added to the difficulty of making ends meet in Hawai'i for healthcare workers, which make competitive wages critical to maintaining the hospital workforce; and,

WHEREAS, staffing problems are only expected to worsen as the population ages and the demand for healthcare services grows concomitantly, making adequate staffing a growing concern for nurses and patients alike; and,

WHEREAS, healthcare workers, like those at Wilcox Medical Center on Kaua'i, continue to emphasize that safe staffing ratios are imperative to the well-being of patients and nurses, and in turn, these ratios protect the entire workforce while helping deliver high-quality patient care that all residents deserve; and,

WHEREAS, the nurse staffing ratios at Wilcox Medical Center on Kaua'i are consistently higher and, therefore, worse than the staffing ratios at comparable Hawai'i Pacific Health facilities located on O'ahu, leading to disparities in patient care and outcomes for those living and seeking treatment on Kaua'i; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) No. 187 HD1 SD1, the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) released a study on best practices for nurse staffing in healthcare facilities entitled, "Time For Triage: A Summary Of Best Practices, State Requirements, And Successful Efforts To Reduce Nurse Staffing Shortages" (2024); and,

WHEREAS, per this study, the LRB concluded that assigning fewer patients to each nurse results in better patient outcomes along with preferable employment conditions for healthcare workers, thereby increasing retention and decreasing burnout and attrition among staff; and,

WHEREAS, additionally, the study recommended implementation of a variety of approaches aimed at reducing or eliminating the State's nursing workforce shortage including, but not limited to, mandated nurse staffing ratios, the creation of a healthcare staffing committee, and public reporting of nurse staffing levels; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF KAUAI, STATE OF HAWAII, that the County of Kauai urges the Hawaii State Legislature to implement safe nurse-to-patient staffing requirements for hospitals.

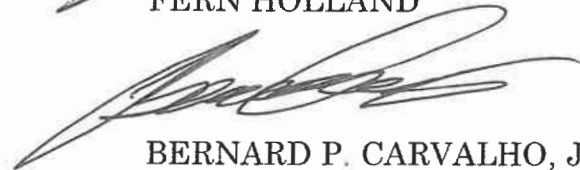
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council encourages the reconsideration and support from all members of the House of Representatives for HB1244, and encourages the consideration and support from all Senators for SB424, both of which would establish minimum nurse staffing standards, create nurse staffing committees, and appropriate funds to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) for enforcement purposes.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the County Clerk be directed to provide copies of this Resolution to Honorable Governor Josh Green, M.D., Honorable Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, all Senators, all Members of the House of Representatives, the Director of the State Department of Health, Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami, Hawaii Nurses Association, and Wilcox Medical Center.

Introduced by:



FERN HOLLAND



BERNARD P. CARVALHO, JR.

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	Aye	May	Excused	Refused
Bulosan	X			
Carbalho	X			
Cowden	X			
Holland	X			
Kaneshiro	X			
Kuali'i			X	
Rapoza			X	
Total	5	0	2	0

### Certificate Of Adoption

We hereby certify that Resolution No. 2025-18  
was adopted by the Council of the County of Kauai, State of  
Hawaii, Lihu'e, Kauai, Hawaii, on February 12, 2025.

  
County Clerk

Dated February 12, 2025

  
Chairman & Presiding Officer