

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1323

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

July 9, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 9, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 2271, S.D. 1, H.D. 2,
C.D. 1

RELATING TO HOSPITAL LICENSING.
ACT 221

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

on JUL 9 2026

THE SENATE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 221
S.B. NO. 2271
S.D. 1
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOSPITAL LICENSING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that The Joint Commission
2 is the most widely used accreditation organization for hospitals
3 in the United States. The legislature further finds that other
4 accreditation organizations have also been approved by the
5 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and also provide
6 accreditation to hospitals. These organizations include the
7 Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Center for Improvement
8 in Healthcare Quality, and DNV Healthcare. Currently, The Joint
9 Commission is the only accreditation organization authorized in
10 the State to provide accreditation that demonstrates a
11 hospital's compliance with all licensing inspections required by
12 the State.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
14 department of health to adopt rules to allow hospitals to
15 demonstrate compliance with all licensing inspections required
16 by the State through accreditation or certification by any



1 accreditation or certification organization approved by the
2 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

3 SECTION 2. Section 321-14.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending subsections (c) to (e) to read as follows:

5 "(c) The rules ~~[may]~~ shall provide that accreditation or
6 certification by ~~[The Joint Commission]~~ an accreditation
7 organization or certification organization approved by the
8 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services demonstrates a
9 hospital's compliance with all licensing inspections required by
10 the State. The rules may exempt a hospital from a licensing
11 inspection on a continuing basis throughout the term of the
12 accreditation or certification under the following conditions:

- 13 (1) The hospital provides the department with a certified
14 copy of the hospital's official accreditation or
15 certification report ~~[from The Joint Commission]~~;
16 (2) The hospital continuously holds full accreditation ~~[by~~
17 ~~The Joint Commission]~~ or certification and provides
18 the department with a certified copy of the hospital's
19 official accreditation or certification report; and
20 (3) The hospital holds a current and valid state license.



1 (d) The rules shall provide that the department may
2 conduct inspections and investigations of exempt hospitals [~~to~~
3 ~~investigate~~] regarding complaints, [follow-up on] adverse
4 accreditation or certification findings, or [conduct] periodic
5 validation surveys.

6 (e) Information contained in reports of survey and
7 official accreditation or certification letters made by [~~The~~
8 ~~Joint Commission~~] an accreditation organization or a
9 certification organization approved by the Centers for Medicare
10 and Medicaid Services that are used in determining compliance
11 with licensing requirements shall be public information."

12 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 2271
S.D. 1
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 9th day of July, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate
of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2026.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 2271, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadine K. Nakamura", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Takeshita", with a horizontal flourish.

Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives