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# 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 been recognized by the Centers  
5 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 GL Healthcare. Currently, The  
9 Joint Commission is the only accreditation organization  
10 authorized in the State to provide accreditation that  
11 demonstrates a hospital's compliance with all licensing  
12 inspections required by 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 recognized 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 or  
7 certification organization recognized by the Centers for  
8 Medicare and Medicaid Services demonstrates a hospital's  
9 compliance with all licensing inspections required by the State.  
10 The rules may exempt a hospital from a licensing inspection on a  
11 continuing basis throughout the term of the accreditation or  
12 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.



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 recognized by the Centers for  
10 Medicare and Medicaid Services that are used in determining  
11 compliance with licensing requirements shall be public  
12 information."

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 Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  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

**15** SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Gregory T. Torn

JAN 14 2026



# H.B. NO. 1538

**Report Title:**

Hospital Licensing; Department of Health; Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Accreditation Organizations; Certification Organizations; Licensing Inspections

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Health to adopt rules to allow hospitals to demonstrate compliance with all licensing inspections required by the State through accreditation or certification by any accreditation or certification organization recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

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

