
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CENTER FOR NURSING TO COMPILE A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF RECOMMENDED SAFE PATIENT STAFFING STRATEGIES AND RATIOS FOR ALL NURSING SPECIALTIES AND SUBSPECIALTIES ACROSS ALL HEALTH CARE SETTINGS, AND TO MAINTAIN A REPOSITORY FOR THIS INFORMATION.

1 WHEREAS, the issue of safe patient staffing ratios in
2 hospitals has escalated into a growing public health concern in
3 Hawaii and other states across the nation and can no longer be
4 defined as strictly a collective bargaining issue; and
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6 WHEREAS, the nursing community is the largest segment of
7 Hawaii's health care workforce and is indispensable to the
8 health, safety, and well-being of the residents of the State;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, as more care is delivered in outpatient or home
12 and community-based settings, the acuity of patients who are
13 admitted to hospitals has intensified, requiring significantly
14 more attention, complex monitoring, and clinical intervention by
15 frontline nurses; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Legislature commissioned the Legislative
18 Reference Bureau to conduct a comprehensive study on nurse
19 staffing pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 187 (2024);
20 and
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22 WHEREAS, the Legislative Reference Bureau submitted its
23 2025 report, *Time for Triage: A Summary of Best Practices,*
24 *State Requirements, and Successful Efforts to Reduce Nurse*
25 *Staffing Shortages*, which cited several studies demonstrating
26 that patient outcomes improve with higher nurse staffing ratios,
27 or nurse-to-patient ratios, through results such as shorter
28 hospital stays, fewer complications, fewer readmissions, less
29 risk of death, reduced hospital-acquired infections, increased



1 patient satisfaction, improved patient compliance with treatment
2 plans, improved pain management, and fewer medication errors,
3 and that nurse staffing ratios may be especially important for
4 patients of color; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Joint Commission, the nation's leading health
7 care accrediting body, has established National Performance Goal
8 12, effective January 1, 2026, which formally recognizes that
9 hospital staffing levels and competencies must align with
10 patient needs as a critical component of clinical quality and
11 patient safety; and
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13 WHEREAS, data from the 2025 *Hawai'i Nursing Workforce Supply*
14 *Statewide Report* and the 2026 informational brief on The State
15 of Hawai'i's LPN & RN Workforces by the Center for Nursing show
16 there is an adequate number of registered nurses in the islands
17 to meet existing demand, indicating the number of registered
18 nurses statewide is not a barrier to safe staffing; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Center for Nursing reports findings from a
21 2023 Nursing Wellbeing, Recruitment, and Retention Strategic
22 Initiative Working Group literature review that Hawaii
23 registered nurses felt so stressed at work that they considered
24 leaving the nursing profession, and that nurses increasingly
25 indicated physical and mental health as leading contributors to
26 their desire to leave the workforce; and
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28 WHEREAS, creating supportive work environments with safe
29 staffing levels is essential to attracting the next generation
30 of nurses to Hawaii's workforce and retaining the experienced
31 nurses currently practicing in Hawaii's health care facilities;
32 and
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34 WHEREAS, establishing a central repository of safe staffing
35 standards as adopted by other states or recommended by industry
36 professionals will allow for better-informed decision-making by
37 health care providers, policymakers, and the public; now,
38 therefore,
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40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
41 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
42 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Center for Nursing is



1 requested to compile a comprehensive list of recommended safe
2 patient staffing strategies and ratios for all nursing
3 specialties and subspecialties across all health care settings,
4 and to maintain a repository for this information; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Center for Nursing is
7 requested to make the repository of recommended safe staffing
8 ratios publicly available no later than twenty days prior to the
9 convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's health care facilities
12 are urged to use every effort to implement safe patient staffing
13 ratios that reflect the standards compiled by the Center for
14 Nursing; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
18 who in turn is requested to submit copies of this measure to the
19 Chief Executive Officers of each hospital and health care
20 facility licensed in the State; and Director of the Center for
21 Nursing.

