
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, the issue of safe staffing in hospitals has
2 escalated into a growing public health concern in Hawaii and
3 other states across the nation and can no longer be defined as
4 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
30 patient satisfaction, improved patient compliance with treatment



1 plans, improved pain management, and fewer medication errors,
2 and that nurse staffing ratios may be especially important for
3 patients of color; and
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5 WHEREAS, The Joint Commission, the nation's leading health
6 care accrediting body, has established National Performance Goal
7 12, effective January 1, 2026, which formally recognizes that
8 hospital staffing levels and competencies must align with
9 patient needs as a critical component of clinical quality and
10 patient safety; and
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12 WHEREAS, data from the 2025 Hawaii Nursing Workforce Supply
13 Statewide Report and the 2026 Informational Brief on The State
14 of Hawaii's LPN and RN Workforces by the Hawaii State Center for
15 Nursing show there is an adequate number of registered nurses in
16 the islands to meet existing demand, indicating the number of
17 registered nurses statewide is not a barrier to safe staffing;
18 and
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20 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Center for Nursing reports
21 findings from a 2023 Nursing Wellbeing, Recruitment, and
22 Retention Strategic Initiative Working Group literature review
23 that Hawaii registered nurses felt so stressed at work that they
24 considered leaving the nursing profession, and that nurses
25 increasingly indicated physical and mental health as leading
26 contributors to 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, that the Hawaii State Center for Nursing is requested



1 to compile a comprehensive list of recommended safe patient
2 staffing ratios for all nursing specialties and subspecialties
3 across all health care settings, and to maintain a repository
4 for this information; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Center for
7 Nursing is requested to make the repository of recommended safe
8 staffing ratios publicly available no later than twenty days
9 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges Hawaii's health
12 care facilities to use every effort to implement safe patient
13 staffing ratios that reflect the standards compiled by the
14 Hawaii State Center for Nursing; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, who in turn
18 is requested to submit copies of this measure to the Chief
19 Executive Officers of each hospital and health care facility
20 licensed in the State; and Executive Director of the Hawaii
21 State Center for Nursing.

