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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PROFESSIONS IN THE STATE WITHOUT A HAWAII-ISSUED LICENSE DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY.

1           WHEREAS, the State faces escalating threats from natural  
2 disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes, flooding, and public  
3 health emergencies necessitating the rapid deployment of health  
4 care professionals for medical and behavioral health needs; and  
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6           WHEREAS, as an island state with unique geographic  
7 isolation and limited health care workforce capacity in certain  
8 regions, particularly in rural areas, it is critical for the  
9 State to have the ability to rapidly mobilize qualified  
10 professionals in the aftermath of a natural disaster; and  
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12           WHEREAS, past reliance on gubernatorial proclamations to  
13 waive state licensure requirements to enable health care  
14 professionals licensed in other states to practice in the State  
15 has proven effective, but caused delays and hampered  
16 coordination with partners, including the military and the  
17 American Red Cross; and  
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19           WHEREAS, establishing streamlined emergency licensure  
20 flexibilities would enable the swift deployment of qualified  
21 health care professionals, thereby enhancing the State's  
22 disaster response capabilities; now, therefore,  
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24           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
26 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor is  
27 requested to establish procedures to authorize the following  
28 professionals to engage in the practice of their respective  
29 professions in the State without a Hawaii-issued license, during  
30 a state of emergency or local state of emergency declared by the



1 Governor or a county mayor pursuant to chapter 127A, Hawaii  
2 Revised Statutes under certain conditions:

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- 4 (1) Physicians and osteopathic physicians;
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- 6 (2) Physician assistants;
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- 8 (3) Registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and  
9 advanced practice registered nurses, including those  
10 with prescriptive authority;
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- 12 (4) Emergency medical service personnel;
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- 14 (5) Pharmacists;
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- 16 (6) Mental health counselors; and
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- 18 (7) Other health care professionals as designated by the  
19 Department of Health in consultation with the  
20 Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to  
23 require any individual engaging in the practice of their  
24 respective profession in the State under the emergency  
25 procedures to:

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- 27 (1) Hold a current and active license in good standing in  
28 another state, territory, or the District of Columbia,  
29 or have previously held a license in good standing in  
30 the State that was not revoked or surrendered under  
31 discipline;
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- 33 (2) Have no history of license revocation, suspension, or  
34 voluntary surrender due to disciplinary action in any  
35 jurisdiction;
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- 37 (3) Be affiliated with a state or county government  
38 agency, hospital, licensed health care facility,  
39 federally qualified health center, or nationally  
40 recognized emergency response organization, including  
41 the American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management  
42 Agency, or any military medical unit; and



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(4) Comply with the scope of practice, standards of care, and prescribing authority of the individual's home jurisdiction, not exceeding the State's standard; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the emergency procedures established by the Governor are requested to authorize the provision of telehealth services by eligible out-of-state professionals without requiring an in-person consultation or existing provider-patient relationship; provided that the services comply with the provider's home jurisdiction's laws and standards of care, and federal privacy laws; provided further that all patient records shall be transferred to a Hawaii-licensed provider upon request or during a transition of care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the authorization to practice under the emergency procedures established by the Governor is requested to expire upon termination of the emergency declaration or sixty days after activation, whichever is sooner, unless extended by the Governor; provided that the Department of Health may immediately revoke authorization for violations, malpractice, or criminal conduct, with notice to the professional's home jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the emergency procedures established by the Governor and any agreement executed pursuant to the emergency procedures are requested to explicitly provide that no civil liability shall attach to the State, counties, or facilitating entities for good-faith actions taken under the emergency procedures and that the professionals shall remain subject to the State's malpractice laws and insurance requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to:

(1) Establish and publicly maintain an online registry of professionals practicing under the emergency procedures established by the Governor, including verification of credentials and affiliation;;



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- 1           (2)   Require self-registration via a secure portal within  
2                   twenty-four hours of the deployment in the State of a  
3                   professional pursuant to the emergency procedures,  
4                   with expedited Department verification within  
5                   forty-eight hours;  
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- 7           (3)   Coordinate with the Department of Commerce and  
8                   Consumer Affairs for license checks;  
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- 10          (4)   Adopt administrative rules pursuant to chapter 91,  
11                   Hawaii Revised Statutes, to implement the emergency  
12                   procedures, including reporting on utilization and  
13                   outcomes; and  
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- 15          (5)   Submit a report to the Governor and Legislature no  
16                   later than twenty days prior to the convening of each  
17                   Regular Session on usage of the emergency procedures,  
18                   which shall include the number of professionals  
19                   authorized to practice, services provided,  
20                   recommendations for improvements, and any proposed  
21                   legislation; and  
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23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24           Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director  
25           of Health, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs,  
26           Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, and  
27           Mayor of each county.  
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OFFERED BY:     *Carol Johnson*    

