

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 01 , 2026

RE: H.R. No. 97
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.R. No. 97
entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE CENTER FOR
NURSING TO CONDUCT A STUDY COMPILING RECOMMENDED SAFE PATIENT
STAFFING RATIOS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Hawai'i State
Center for Nursing to conduct a study compiling recommended safe
patient staffing ratios for various hospital units and health care
settings.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawai'i American Nurses Association; Hawaii Government
Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; Hawaii Nurses
and Healthcare Professionals; Hawaii Nurses Association, OPEIU
Local 50; and eight individuals. Your Committee received
testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your
Committee received comments on this measure from the Hawai'i Board
of Nursing and Hawai'i State Center for Nursing.

Your Committee finds that safe patient staffing levels in
hospitals are a critical component of patient safety, quality of
care, and workforce sustainability. Your Committee further finds
that prior studies and workforce data demonstrate improved patient



outcomes and indicate that the availability of registered nurses statewide is not a barrier to achieving safe staffing.

Your Committee recognizes the concerns raised in testimony by the Board of Nursing and Hawai'i State Center for Nursing that existing studies and qualitative differences between professional staffing recommendations and regulatory requirements may make the study proposed by this measure redundant and administratively difficult to implement. However, your Committee believes that requesting the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing to publish a repository consisting of a comprehensive compilation of recommended patient staffing ratios will promote transparency, inform policy decisions, and support the retention and recruitment of Hawaii's nursing workforce.

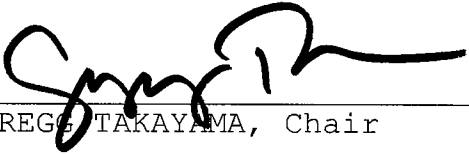
Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Requesting the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing to compile a comprehensive list of recommended safe patient staffing ratios for all nursing specialties and sub-specialties in all health care settings and maintain a repository of that information, rather than conducting a study on specific safe patient staffing ratios for various hospital units and health care settings;
- (2) Requesting the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing to make the repository of recommended safe patient staffing ratios publicly available, rather than submitting a study, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027;
- (3) Amending its title in accordance with its amended purpose; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 97, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.R. No. 97, H.D. 1.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



GREG TAKAYAMA, Chair



