REQUESTING THE CENTER FOR NURSING TO EVALUATE THE NEED AND
RESOURCES REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A CONTINUING EDUCATION
PROGRAM FOR NURSES.

WHEREAS, section 457-9(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes,
provides that a nurse who has not actively practiced in this
State or any other state in the United States or any territory
or possession under the jurisdiction of the United States for
more than five years may be required to submit proof of
continued competency by retaking and passing the licensing
examination or successfully completing a refresher course
approved by the State Board of Nursing; and

WHEREAS, section 16-89C-20(a)(2), Hawaii Administrative
Rules, requires advanced practice registered nurses with
prescriptive authority to submit proof of successfully completing
thirty contact hours of continuing education including eight
hours of advanced pharmacology to renew prescriptive authority;
and

WHEREAS, advanced practice registered nurses without
prescriptive authority, registered nurses, and licensed
practical nurses are not required to submit proof of having
completed continuing education to renew their licenses; and

WHEREAS, nursing careers take widely divergent paths,
varying by professional role, setting, clients, disease
conditions, and therapeutic modalities as well as level of
health care delivery; and

WHEREAS, there is an inherent evolution of practice from
the new graduate-entry-generalist level to the experienced-
focused practice level of competence; and

WHEREAS, the need and the costs involved in implementing an
effective mandatory continuing education program for twenty-four
thousand nurses licensed in the State need to be assessed; and
WHEREAS, the costs as they relate to anticipated financial resources need to be assessed; and

WHEREAS, the cost for an effective, mandatory continuing education program which may result in increased fees to the nurses and possible increased costs to consumers need to be assessed to determine whether the benefits to the nurses, the employers, and the public outweigh the costs; and

WHEREAS, continuing education requirements must be administratively feasible, cost-effective, and equitably applied and enforced; and

WHEREAS, the continuing education program should include the descriptions of proposed offerings, the objectives, the intended audience, faculty credentials, the administrative structure, sources of financial support, the recordkeeping mechanism, and a valid method of evaluation; and

WHEREAS, an adequate phase-in period proposed to allow educational institutions, employers, and professionals sufficient time to meet the mandatory continuing education requirements needs to be determined; and

WHEREAS, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing explored the characteristics of registered and licensed practical or vocational nursing from entry through five years of practice; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that the Center for Nursing is requested to:

(1) Evaluate whether there is a demonstrated need for mandatory continuing education and whether there is documented evidence that problems exist because of actual performance deficiencies, rather than inadequacies in supervision, facilities, financial resources, or equipment, are responsible for unacceptable professional performance;

(2) Identify the resources required to ensure proper delivery, monitoring, and compliance of the program, including funds for additional program operation such
as qualified staff, space, materials, and equipment, and the identification and weighing of the cost impacts on the professional, the employer, and the educational institution;

(3) Identify the availability of the needed resources to establish a continuing education program for twenty-four thousand nurses licensed in Hawaii;

(4) Review the studies done by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing;

(5) Identify a professional program suitable for analyzing the training and educational needs of nurses and for evaluating competence on the basis of current practice criteria; and

(6) Identify the fiscal impacts on the State, the public, the nurse, the employer, and the educational system of establishing and maintaining a mandatory continuing education system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Center for Nursing is requested to establish a joint advisory committee that includes the following persons as members:

(1) A representative from each of the following Hawaii schools of nursing:

(A) University of Hawaii at Manoa;

(B) Hawaii Pacific University;

(C) University of Hawaii at Hilo;

(D) Kapiolani Community College;

(E) Maui Community College;

(F) Kauai Community College;
(G) Hawaii Community College; and

(H) University of Phoenix; and

(2) A representative from each of the following organizations or associations:

(A) Hawaii Association of Nurse Anesthetists;

(B) Hawaii Association of Nurse Executives;

(C) Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses;

(D) Hawaii Long Term Care Association;

(E) Hawaii Nurses Association;

(F) Healthcare Association of Hawaii; and

(G) Philippine Nurses Association; and

(3) A representative from each of the following governmental agencies:

(A) Department of Health;

(B) Department of Human Services;

(C) Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs;

(D) Office of the State Auditor; and

(E) Board of Nursing; and

(4) Representatives of employers, including but not limited to, Hawaii Pacific Health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the joint advisory committee are requested to serve without compensation and without reimbursement for expenses; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Center for Nursing is requested to take the recommendations of the joint advisory committee under advisement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Center for Nursing is further requested to review all reports and studies prepared by the State Auditor and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing relating to continuing education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Center for Nursing is requested to submit an interim report highlighting their progress to the Legislature twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Center for Nursing is requested to report its findings and recommendations (based on research and statistical analyses), including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint advisory committee is requested to dissolve on June 30, 2013, unless otherwise provided by the Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Nursing, the Director of the Center for Nursing, the President of Hawaii Pacific University, the Chancellors of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Kapiolani Community College, Maui Community College, Kauai Community College, and Hawaii Community College, the President of the University of Phoenix; the Executive Director of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing; the Executive Directors of Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses, Hawaii Nurses Association, Philippine Nurses Association, Hawaii Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Hawaii Association of Nurse Executives, Healthcare Association of Hawaii, and Hawaii Long Term Care Association; the Directors of Health, Human Services, and Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and the State Auditor.