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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NURSE AIDES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that an estimated twenty-  
2 seven thousand individuals in the State suffer from Alzheimer's  
3 disease, a progressive brain disease that is the sixth leading  
4 cause of death in the nation. Alzheimer's disease affects a  
5 person's memory, and it eventually causes the individual to  
6 experience difficulties with speech and language skills, vision,  
7 decision-making, and many other daily activities such as eating  
8 and grooming. The legislature further finds that the results of  
9 the 2015 Hawaii Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey  
10 indicate that forty-one per cent of individuals who admitted to  
11 having memory problems stated that they gave up their day-to-day  
12 activities due to their memory problems. Furthermore, twenty-  
13 eight per cent of those who indicated that they had memory  
14 problems stated that they needed assistance with day-to-day  
15 activities.

16           The legislature further finds that, due to the nature of  
17 Alzheimer's disease and the individual sufferer's extensive need



1 for assistance with daily living activities, there is a high  
2 demand for in-home care, adult day care, assisted living  
3 facilities, and care homes. Assistance for the majority of the  
4 daily life activities at these facilities is performed by nurse  
5 aides, also known as nursing assistants.

6 The legislature further finds that recertification  
7 requirements administered by the department of commerce and  
8 consumer affairs currently include:

- 9 (1) Eight hours of employment performing nursing or  
10 nursing-related services involving direct patient care  
11 under the supervision of a licensed or registered  
12 nurse within the relevant health care setting; and  
13 (2) Twenty-four hours of competency training, as approved  
14 by the department of human services, for nurse aides  
15 who work in a state-licensed or state-certified health  
16 care setting other than a medicare or medicaid  
17 certified nursing facility.

18 The legislature finds that the complexities of the  
19 recertification process prevent a significant number of  
20 otherwise qualified nurse aides from being certified.



1           Creating an alternative path to recertify nurse aides who  
2 work in a state-licensed or state-certified health care setting  
3 other than a medicare or medicaid certified nursing facility  
4 would simplify recertification requirements and increase the  
5 pool of nurse aides who may serve patients with Alzheimer's  
6 disease and related dementia.

7           The purpose of this Act is to expand the recertification  
8 options for nurse aides who work in a state-licensed or state-  
9 certified health care setting other than a medicare or medicaid  
10 certified nursing facility by requiring the nurse aides to  
11 complete either:

12           (1) A competency evaluation approved by the department of  
13 human services; or

14           (2) Eight hours of dementia training, with a passing score  
15 on a competency examination on the dementia training.

16           SECTION 2. Section 457A-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

18           "(e) Maintenance requirements for the recertification  
19 process shall be required on a biennial basis and shall include  
20 [~~a competency evaluation approved by the department of human~~



1 services, and] employment in a state-licensed or state-certified  
2 health care setting[-] and either:

3 (1) A competency evaluation approved by the department of  
4 human services; or

5 (2) Eight hours of dementia training and a passing score  
6 on a competency examination on the dementia training."

7 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
8 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
9 begun before its effective date.

10 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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**Report Title:**

Nurse Aides; Recertification

**Description:**

Adds dementia training and a passing score on an examination on that training as an option for the recertification of nurse aides working in state-licensed and state-certified health care settings other than medicare or medicaid certified nursing facilities.

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