

MAR 12 2021

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT JUNE 27 OF EACH YEAR BE RECOGNIZED AS POST-  
TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS DAY AND DESIGNATING THE  
MONTH OF JUNE OF EACH YEAR AS POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY  
AWARENESS MONTH IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, all citizens possess the basic human right to the  
2 preservation of personal dignity; and  
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4           WHEREAS, all citizens deserve the investment of every  
5 possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and  
6 emotional well-being; and  
7

8           WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress can result from any number  
9 of stressors, including combat, interpersonal violence, severe  
10 impact collisions, natural disaster, and exposure to the  
11 suffering of others; and  
12

13           WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as Post-Traumatic Stress  
14 Disorder (PTSD) was initially formulated in 1980 by the American  
15 Psychiatric Association to commonly describe and categorize the  
16 psychological aftermath of severe traumatic distress; and  
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18           WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress has historically been  
19 groundlessly mischaracterized as a mental illness caused by a  
20 preexisting flaw of character or ability, and the term  
21 "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception;  
22 and  
23

24           WHEREAS, it has been shown through electro-magnetic imaging  
25 that severe post-traumatic stress causes physical changes in the  
26 brain that are more accurately described as an injury than a  
27 disorder; and  
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29           WHEREAS, referring to post-traumatic stress as a disorder  
30 can disparage and discourage those injured from seeking timely  
31 care for their behavioral health needs; and  
32

33           WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury that exhibits  
34 compliance with criteria B through H of section 309.81 of the



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1 Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders deserves equal  
2 compensation strictly matching that presently allowed for post-  
3 traumatic stress disorder; and  
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5 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress  
6 injury deserve compassion and consideration, and the brave men  
7 and women who received these wounds while risking their lives to  
8 protect our freedom, health, and welfare deserve special  
9 recognition of their gallantry, commitment, devotion, and  
10 sacrifice; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, timely access to appropriate treatment of post-  
13 traumatic stress injury can diminish complications and prevent  
14 suicide; now, therefore,  
15

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
18 that the twenty-seventh day of June of each year should be  
19 designated as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and  
20 observed as a day of recognition and appreciation; and  
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the month of June of each year  
23 shall be designated as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness  
24 Month in Hawaii; and  
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and  
27 the United States Department of Veteran Affairs are urged to  
28 continue working to educate victims of interpersonal violence,  
29 combat, life-threatening accidents, or natural disasters; their  
30 families; and the general public, about the causes, symptoms,  
31 and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury; and  
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
34 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of  
35 State and Secretary of Veteran Affairs; Governor; Director of  
36 Health; Director of the State Office of Veterans Services; and  
37 Executive Director of Honor For All.  
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OFFERED BY: 

