

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT 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

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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

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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

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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



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2 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury that exhibits
3 compliance with criteria B through H of section 309.81 of the
4 Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders deserves equal
5 compensation strictly matching that presently allowed for post-
6 traumatic stress disorder; and

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8 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress
9 injury deserve compassion and consideration, and the brave men
10 and women who received these wounds while risking their lives to
11 protect our freedom, health, and welfare deserve special
12 recognition of their gallantry, commitment, devotion, and
13 sacrifice; and

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

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

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the month of June of each year
27 shall be designated as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness
28 Month in Hawaii; and

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

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
3 Secretary of State and Secretary of Veteran Affairs; Governor;
4 Director of Health; Director of the State Office of Veterans
5 Services; and Executive Director of Honor For All.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JBL', is written over a horizontal line.