
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO PRIORITIZE THE CONSIDERATION OF
LEGISLATION PROHIBITING THE USE OF "EXCITED DELIRIUM", OR
SIMILAR PSEUDOSCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS, AS A MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS,
CAUSE OF DEATH, OR LEGAL THEORY IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, multiple committees of the Hawaii State
2 Legislature have found that "excited delirium", sometimes
3 referred to as "excited delirium syndrome", is not a recognized
4 medical diagnosis, has no basis in accepted medical science, and
5 lacks consistent or objective diagnostic criteria; and
6

7 WHEREAS, legislative committees have further found that
8 "excited delirium" has, for decades, been invoked to justify or
9 excuse the use of force by law enforcement, particularly in
10 incidents involving individuals experiencing mental health
11 crises and disproportionately affecting people of color; and
12

13 WHEREAS, legislative committees have found that the
14 majority of major national and international medical
15 organizations do not recognize "excited delirium" as a valid
16 medical diagnosis and have disavowed its use in clinical,
17 forensic, or legal contexts; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the House Committee on Health has found that
20 "excited delirium" is not included in the Diagnostic and
21 Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the authoritative
22 classification system for mental health disorders used by
23 medical professionals in the United States; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian
26 Affairs has found that the use of "excited delirium" as a
27 purported diagnosis or explanation for deaths occurring in law
28 enforcement custody has contributed to legal outcomes that



1 obscure the true causes of death and undermine accountability
2 and justice for affected individuals and their families; and
3

4 WHEREAS, there has never been an International
5 Classification of Diseases (ICD-9 or ICD-10) code for "excited
6 delirium", meaning it cannot be legitimately included as a cause
7 of death for standardized medical or statistical reporting
8 purposes; and
9

10 WHEREAS, despite the lack of medical recognition, "excited
11 delirium" has appeared on autopsy reports and death certificates
12 in Hawaii, and has been referenced in legal proceedings,
13 including wrongful death cases involving deaths occurring during
14 law enforcement encounters; and
15

16 WHEREAS, defense experts in certain Hawaii cases have
17 testified that individuals who died during encounters with law
18 enforcement succumbed to "excited delirium", even where that
19 term was not listed as a cause of death, including the case
20 involving Oahu military veteran Sheldon Haleck; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the Legislature has previously considered
23 legislation that would have prohibited the use of "excited
24 delirium" as a medical diagnosis, cause of death, or legal
25 theory in the State, reflecting substantial legislative concern
26 regarding the continued reliance on this discredited concept;
27 now, therefore,
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature is urged to
32 prioritize the consideration of legislation prohibiting the use
33 of "excited delirium", or similar pseudoscientific concepts, as
34 a medical diagnosis, cause of death, or legal theory in the
35 State of Hawaii; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such legislation should ensure
38 that medical determinations, official records, and legal
39 proceedings in the State are grounded in scientifically valid
40 and medically recognized principles; and
41



H.C.R. NO. 146

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Concurrent Resolution be
2 known as "The Haleck Resolution", in memory of veteran and
3 Native Hawaiian Sheldon Haleck; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
7 Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives.
8
9
10

OFFERED BY: _____



MAR 16 2026

