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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PROHIBITION OF 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  
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7           WHEREAS, "excited delirium" has, for decades, been invoked  
8 to justify or excuse the use of force by law enforcement,  
9 particularly in incidents involving individuals experiencing  
10 mental health crises and disproportionately affecting people of  
11 color; and  
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13           WHEREAS, the majority of major national and international  
14 medical organizations do not recognize "excited delirium" as a  
15 valid medical diagnosis and have disavowed its use in clinical,  
16 forensic, or legal contexts; and  
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18           WHEREAS, "excited delirium" is not included in the  
19 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the  
20 authoritative classification system for mental health disorders  
21 used by medical professionals in the United States; and  
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23           WHEREAS, the use of "excited delirium" as a purported  
24 diagnosis or explanation for deaths occurring in law enforcement  
25 custody has contributed to legal outcomes that obscure the true  
26 causes of death and undermine accountability and justice for  
27 affected individuals and their families; and  
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29           WHEREAS, there has never been an International  
30 Classification of Diseases (ICD-9 or ICD-10) code for "excited



1 delirium", meaning it cannot be legitimately included as a cause  
2 of death for standardized medical or statistical reporting  
3 purposes; and  
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5 WHEREAS, despite the lack of medical recognition, "excited  
6 delirium" has appeared on autopsy reports and death certificates  
7 in Hawaii, and has been referenced in legal proceedings,  
8 including wrongful death cases involving deaths occurring during  
9 law enforcement encounters; and  
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11 WHEREAS, defense experts in certain Hawaii cases have  
12 testified that individuals who died during encounters with law  
13 enforcement succumbed to "excited delirium", even where that  
14 term was not listed as a cause of death, including the case  
15 involving Oahu military veteran Sheldon Haleck; and  
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17 WHEREAS, there continues to be significant concern  
18 regarding the continued reliance on this discredited concept;  
19 now, therefore,  
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
22 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
23 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that this body urges the  
24 prohibition of the use of "excited delirium", or similar  
25 pseudoscientific concepts, as a medical diagnosis, cause of  
26 death, or legal theory in the State of Hawaii; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges medical  
29 determinations, official records, and legal proceedings in the  
30 State to be grounded in scientifically valid and medically  
31 recognized principles; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the counties to  
34 prohibit the use of "excited delirium" or similar  
35 pseudoscientific concepts, as a medical diagnosis, cause of  
36 death, or legal theory; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Concurrent Resolution be  
39 known as "The Haleck Resolution", in memory of veteran and  
40 Native Hawaiian Sheldon Haleck; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors of the  
3 counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii; Mayor of the City and  
4 County of Honolulu; Chairpersons of the Maui County Council,  
5 Kauai County Council, and Hawaii County Council; and Chairperson  
6 of the Honolulu City Council.

