
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

FINDING THAT "EXCITED DELIRIUM" AND "EXCITED DELIRIUM SYNDROME" ARE NOT MEDICAL DIAGNOSES RECOGNIZED BY ANY LEADING MEDICAL OR OTHER SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION AND REQUESTING ALL STATE AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT ENTITIES TO REFRAIN FROM INDICATING "EXCITED DELIRIUM" OR "EXCITED DELIRIUM SYNDROME" AS A CAUSE OF DEATH.

1 WHEREAS, "excited delirium" is an unofficial term
2 characterized by agitation, aggression, acute distress, and
3 sudden death, often in a pre-hospital care setting; and
4

5 WHEREAS, "excited delirium" is not recognized as an
6 official medical diagnosis by any leading medical or other
7 scientific organization; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the Senate Committees on Health and Human Services
10 and Public Safety and Military Affairs held a joint hearing on
11 S.B. No. 228, S.D. 1 (2025), a measure addressing excited
12 delirium, and issued Senate Standing Committee Report No. 528
13 (Regular Session 2025), stating:
14

15 Your Committees find that "excited delirium", or
16 "excited delirium syndrome"[,] is not a real medical
17 diagnosis, has no basis in medicine, and has no
18 consistent or diagnostic criteria. Your Committees
19 further find that for decades, "excited delirium" has
20 been invoked to justify law enforcement violence,
21 especially against people of color and those
22 experiencing mental health crises.
23

24 ; and
25



1 WHEREAS, the Senate Committee on Judiciary held a hearing
2 on S.B. No 228, S.D. 1 (2025), and issued Senate Standing
3 Committee Report No. 954 (Regular Session 2025), which included
4 similar findings:

5
6 Your Committee finds that the majority of major
7 national and international medical organizations do
8 not classify "excited delirium" as a medical
9 diagnosis. Your Committee further finds that
10 historically, excited delirium has been often utilized
11 and weaponized to shield law enforcement from
12 accountability when negative outcomes occur from
13 police-civilian interactions. Therefore, by
14 prohibiting the use of the term "excited delirium" in
15 medical and law enforcement reports, this measure will
16 ensure that only scientifically proven diagnoses are
17 employed in official reports and legal proceedings.

18
19 ; and

20
21 WHEREAS, the House Committee on Health held a hearing on
22 H.B. No. 36, H.D. 1 (2025), a measure also addressing excited
23 delirium, and issued House Standing Committee Report No. 322
24 (Regular Session 2025), stating:

25
26 Your Committee finds that "excited delirium" is a
27 term with no medical basis that is used to justify the
28 use of excessive force by some law enforcement
29 officers against individuals experiencing a mental
30 health crisis. Your Committee further finds that
31 "excited delirium" has no consistent definition or
32 diagnostic criteria and is not currently included in
33 the DSM-5, the authoritative classification system for
34 mental health disorders used by medical professionals
35 in the United States. Your Committee believes that
36 the interests of justice and public health and safety
37 dictate that "excited delirium" should not be
38 recognized as a valid cause of death, used in incident
39 reports, or admissible in civil cases in the State.

40
41 ; and



1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii House Committee on Judiciary and
 2 Hawaiian Affairs held a hearing on H.B. No. 36, H.D. 2 (2025),
 3 and issued House Standing Committee Report No. 1056 (Regular
 4 Session 2025), stating:

5
 6 Your Committee finds that the term "excited
 7 delirium" has been widely discredited by medical and
 8 scientific organizations and has been improperly used
 9 to justify deaths occurring in law enforcement
 10 custody. This unrecognized diagnosis has contributed
 11 to legal outcomes that obscure the true causes of
 12 death, preventing accountability and justice for
 13 affected individuals and their families. This measure
 14 ensures that law enforcement and medical
 15 determinations are based on scientifically valid and
 16 evidence-based practices by prohibiting the use of the
 17 term "excited delirium" as a medical diagnosis, cause
 18 of death, or legal defense.

19
20 ; and

21
 22 WHEREAS, the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian
 23 Affairs held a hearing on S.B. No. 228, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, and
 24 issued House Standing Committee Report No. 1784 (Regular Session
 25 2025), stating:

26
 27 Your Committee finds that the term "excited
 28 delirium" is now disavowed by major medical
 29 organizations, including the American Medical
 30 Association, American Psychiatric Association,
 31 American Academy of Emergency Medicine, National
 32 Association of Medical Examiners, American College of
 33 Medical Toxicology, and American College of Emergency
 34 Physicians. Your Committee further finds that the
 35 concept of excited delirium has been used in various
 36 cases over the years to justify, excuse, or negate
 37 liability for police misconduct in cases involving the
 38 deaths of individuals in custody. This measure would
 39 strengthen accountability on the part of law
 40 enforcement.

41
42 ; and



1
2 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization also recognizes that
3 "excited delirium" is not a valid medical diagnosis or cause of
4 death, and "excited delirium" has never appeared in any version
5 of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders;
6 and
7

8 WHEREAS, the ninth and tenth revisions of the International
9 Classification of Diseases have not included a classification
10 code for "excited delirium," which prevents it from being listed
11 as a cause of death on a death certificate for purposes of
12 statistical reporting; and
13

14 WHEREAS, despite this, "excited delirium" improperly
15 appears in Hawaii autopsy reports and death certificates, and
16 the Department of Health reported that "excited delirium" has
17 been listed as an immediate cause of death nine times since
18 2006; and
19

20 WHEREAS, even when "excited delirium" did not appear as a
21 cause of death in an autopsy report or death certificate,
22 defense experts in Hawaii wrongful death cases have testified
23 that a person who was killed by law enforcement actually died of
24 "excited delirium," as happened to Oahu military veteran Sheldon
25 Haleck; and
26

27 WHEREAS, in 2005, S.B. No. 228, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, which
28 proposed to prohibit the use of "excited delirium" as a valid
29 cause of death or medical condition in the State of Hawaii,
30 passed the Hawaii House of Representatives with zero "no" votes,
31 and had no opposition from the law enforcement or medical
32 communities, but was denied a Conference Committee hearing; now
33 therefore,
34

35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
37 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature finds that
38 "excited delirium" and "excited delirium syndrome" are not
39 medical diagnoses recognized by any leading medical or
40 scientific organization; and
41



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state and county government
2 entities are requested to refrain from indicating "excited
3 delirium" or "excited delirium syndrome" as a cause of death on
4 any autopsy report or death certificate and from indicating that
5 "excited delirium" or "excited delirium syndrome" was a cause of
6 death in any context; and

7

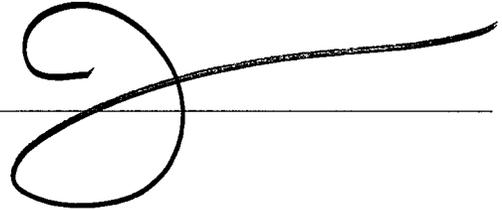
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
10 Medical Examiner or Coroner of each county, and Chief of Police
11 of each county.

12

13

14

OFFERED BY: _____

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature consists of a large, looping initial letter followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

MAR 16 2026

