
HOUSE 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
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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
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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
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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
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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
29 obscure the true causes of death and undermine accountability
30 and justice for affected individuals and their families; and
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1 WHEREAS, there has never been an International
2 Classification of Diseases (ICD-9 or ICD-10) code for "excited
3 delirium", meaning it cannot be legitimately included as a cause
4 of death for standardized medical or statistical reporting
5 purposes; and

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

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

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

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

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

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be known as
40 "The Haleck Resolution", in memory of veteran and Native
41 Hawaiian Sheldon Haleck; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate and
3 Speaker of the House of Representatives.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 16 2026

