
HOUSE 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
31 delirium", meaning it cannot be legitimately included as a cause



1 of death for standardized medical or statistical reporting
2 purposes; and

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

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

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16 WHEREAS, there continues to be significant concern
17 regarding the continued reliance on this discredited concept;
18 now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
22 of 2026, that this body urges the prohibition of the use of
23 "excited delirium", or similar pseudoscientific concepts, as a
24 medical diagnosis, cause of death, or legal theory in the State
25 of Hawaii; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges medical
28 determinations, official records, and legal proceedings in the
29 State to be grounded in scientifically valid and medically
30 recognized principles; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the counties to
33 prohibit the use of "excited delirium" or similar
34 pseudoscientific concepts, as a medical diagnosis, cause of
35 death, or legal theory; and

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

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors of the counties of Maui,



- 1 Kauai, and Hawaii; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu;
- 2 Chairpersons of the Maui County Council, Kauai County Council,
- 3 and Hawaii County Council; and Chairperson of the Honolulu City
- 4 Council.

