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

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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

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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:

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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:

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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:

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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, that the Legislature finds that "excited delirium" and  
38 "excited delirium syndrome" are not medical diagnoses recognized  
39 by any leading medical or scientific organization; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state and county government  
42 entities are requested to refrain from indicating "excited

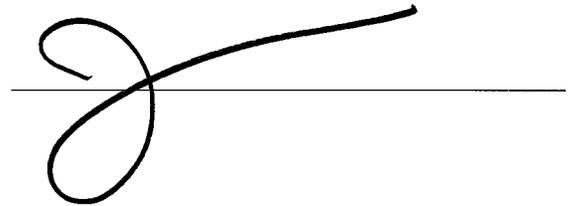


1 delirium" or "excited delirium syndrome" as a cause of death on  
2 any autopsy report or death certificate and from indicating that  
3 "excited delirium" or "excited delirium syndrome" was a cause of  
4 death in any context; and

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

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a horizontal stroke that extends to the right, crossing the horizontal line of the signature line.

MAR 16 2026

