
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS
"BRAIN ANEURYSM AWARENESS MONTH".

1 WHEREAS, a brain aneurysm is a weak bulging spot on the
2 wall of a brain artery very much like a thin balloon or weak
3 spot on an inner tube; and
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5 WHEREAS, aneurysms form silently from wear and tear on the
6 arteries, and sometimes can form from injury, infection, or
7 inherited tendency; and
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9 WHEREAS, studies show that about two percent of the United
10 States population has brain aneurysms, and approximately three
11 to six million people in the United States have unruptured brain
12 aneurysms; and
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14 WHEREAS, brain aneurysms can occur in people of all ages,
15 but are most common in people, ages 35 to 60; and
16

17 WHEREAS, factors that doctors and researchers believe
18 contribute to the formation of brain aneurysms:
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- 20 (1) Smoking;
21
22 (2) Traumatic head injury;
23
24 (3) Use of alcohol;
25
26 (4) Use of oral contraceptives;
27
28 (5) Family history of brain aneurysms; or
29
30 (6) Other inherited disorders;
31

32 and
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34 WHEREAS, most people with unruptured brain aneurysms have
35 no symptoms, while others may experience some or all of the
36 following symptoms, which suggest an aneurysm:



- 1
- 2 (1) Cranial nerve palsy;
- 3
- 4 (2) Dilated pupils;
- 5
- 6 (3) Double vision;
- 7
- 8 (4) Pain above and behind eye; or
- 9
- 10 (5) Localized headache;

11 and

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14 WHEREAS, warning signs precede about 40 percent of major
15 ruptures, including:

- 16
- 17 (1) Localized headache;
- 18
- 19 (2) Nausea and vomiting;
- 20
- 21 (3) Stiff neck;
- 22
- 23 (4) Blurred or double vision;
- 24
- 25 (5) Sensitivity to light; or
- 26
- 27 (6) Loss of sensation;

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29 and

30
31 WHEREAS, for the brain aneurysm survivor, there are many
32 stages to recovery, healing, and surviving; and

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34 WHEREAS, a glimpse of the realities of life as a survivor
35 can be found in the following poem:
36



1 "S lowly I wake, no memories of hours past.
 2 U nbelievable circumstances, I did outlast.
 3 R ecovering and healing both lie ahead.
 4 V ictim, not I, but survivor, not dead.
 5 I mpossible to grasp or want to know,
 6 V ery scared and hopeful, both high and low.
 7 O ut of this illness, this tragedy, this pain,
 8 R eal strength, real courage, and real love will remain."
 9 -H. Karp, SAH Survivor;

10 and

11
 12 WHEREAS, while only scanning technology such as magnetic
 13 resonance imaging (MRI) or computed tomography (CAT Scan) can
 14 detect a brain aneurysm, if detected before it ruptures, an
 15 aneurysm can often be treated successfully with microsurgery;
 16 and

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 18 WHEREAS, awareness and information are the greatest weapons
 19 we have to battle the loss and debilitating effects a brain
 20 aneurysm can have on a family and an individual; now, therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 23 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 24 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Governor is
 25 urged to designate the month of September as "Brain Aneurysm
 26 Awareness Month"; and

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 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 29 urged to develop and implement an awareness campaign for the
 30 general public on the effects of brain aneurysms and steps that
 31 can be taken to provide for detection and treatment; and

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 33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 34 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Director of
 35 Health.

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