

---

---

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS,  
ALSO KNOWN AS ALS OR LOU GEHRIG'S DISEASE, AND COMMUNITY  
SUPPORT FOR FINDING A CURE FOR ALS AND THE PROVISION OF  
ASSISTANCE TO ALS PATIENTS.

1           WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as  
2 Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive, fatal neurodegenerative  
3 disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal  
4 cord; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, early symptoms of ALS often include increasing  
7 muscle weakness, especially involving the arms and legs, speech,  
8 swallowing, or breathing; and

9  
10           WHEREAS, the progressive degeneration of the motor neurons  
11 in an ALS patient eventually leads to death; and

12  
13           WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity,  
14 and thus, the patient remains alert and aware of the loss of  
15 motor functions and the inevitable outcome of deterioration and  
16 death; and

17  
18           WHEREAS, on average, ALS patients survive only two to five  
19 years after the ALS diagnosis is made; and

20  
21           WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, means of prevention, or  
22 cure; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are  
25 about twice as likely to develop ALS as compared to those who  
26 have not served in the military; and

27  
28           WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs  
29 implemented regulations to establish a presumption of service  
30 connection for ALS, thereby presuming that the development of  
31 ALS was incurred or aggravated by a veteran's service in the  
32 military; and



1 WHEREAS, the National ALS Patient Registry, which is  
2 administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,  
3 is a congressionally-mandated registry for persons in the United  
4 States with ALS, and may be the single largest ALS research  
5 project ever created; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, due to his affliction with ALS, Lou Gehrig, the  
8 pride of the Yankees, bid farewell to baseball in a famous  
9 speech given at Yankee Stadium on July 4, 1939; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, 2014 is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of that speech, and  
12 this anniversary will be observed during the National ALS  
13 Association's advocacy gathering in May 2014, in Washington,  
14 D.C., with generous support from Major and Minor League Baseball  
15 across the country; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, Hawaii has joined with other groups nationally to  
18 increase public awareness of:

- 19  
20 (1) The circumstances and experiences which ALS patients  
21 face in combatting this fatal disease;  
22  
23 (2) The terrible impact ALS has not only on ALS patients  
24 but on their families; and  
25  
26 (3) The research being done to treat and eradicate this  
27 rapidly progressive and fatal disease; now, therefore,  
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
30 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
31 Session of 2014, that this body hereby urges community support  
32 for, and awareness in, finding a cure for ALS and the provision  
33 of assistance to ALS patients; and

34  
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the community is further urged  
36 to support the "Walk to Defeat ALS," scheduled for Saturday,  
37 September 6, 2014, at 11:00 a.m., at Kapiolani Regional Park in  
38 Honolulu, Hawaii, as a joint community awareness event; and

39  
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ALS support group and the  
41 ALS Association Golden West Chapter in Agoura Hills, California,  
42 be recognized for their joint efforts to achieve the goal of a  
43 Hawaii ALS Registry; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the ALS Association Golden West  
3 Chapter and the ALS Association.

