

FEB 12 2014

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CREATE A TASK  
FORCE TO STUDY THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF HYPERBARIC  
TREATMENT FOR VETERANS WHO SUFFER FROM POST-TRAUMATIC  
STRESS DISORDER AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

1           WHEREAS, it is estimated that between eleven per cent and  
2 twenty per cent of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans experience  
3 post-traumatic stress disorder; and  
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5           WHEREAS, according to data from the Armed Forces Health  
6 Surveillance Center, in 2013 alone, over twenty thousand  
7 military members worldwide have experienced some kind of brain  
8 injury; and  
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10           WHEREAS, while not all of these injuries were deployment-  
11 related, many are due to the dangerous conditions confronting  
12 service members, such as land mines, improvised explosive  
13 devices, and grenades; and  
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15           WHEREAS, hyperbaric oxygen therapy involves breathing pure  
16 oxygen in a pressurized room which increases oxygen delivery to  
17 the tissues, with the benefit of enhancing white blood cell  
18 activity, stimulating the formation of new blood vessels, and  
19 allowing the body to naturally heal itself; and  
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21           WHEREAS, hyperbaric oxygen therapy has been found to  
22 significantly enhance the brain's energy production and minimize  
23 the intracranial pressure on the brain without any toxic effects  
24 on the brain or the lungs; and  
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26           WHEREAS, case studies have consistently shown hyperbaric  
27 oxygen therapy to not only repair parts of the brain that may  
28 have been dormant but also to revitalize parts of the brain that  
29 had not properly been functioning; and  
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1           WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense and the  
2 United States Department of Veterans Affairs have substantially  
3 invested in the research and exploration of complementary and  
4 alternative medicine, spending nearly \$65,000,000 on research  
5 projects around the country focusing on whether current medical  
6 practices combined with alternative medicine techniques can help  
7 troops with injuries they sustained during war; and

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9           WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veteran Affairs  
10 has established specialized mental health centers of excellence  
11 to address the mental health needs of veterans returning from  
12 war, which has allowed researchers and clinicians to explore  
13 alternative treatments to mental health disorders; and

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15           WHEREAS, the White House has expressed strong support for  
16 hyperbaric oxygen treatment as part of the White House Joining  
17 Forces initiative, which supports returning veterans by  
18 reconnecting them to the resources they need; and

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20           WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of  
21 Medicine has joined the White House Joining Forces initiative by  
22 adjusting their curricula to refocus its research and clinical  
23 trials involving post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic  
24 brain injury to better serve veterans; now, therefore,

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26           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the  
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
29 Human Services is requested to create a task force that includes  
30 representatives of health care professionals, the armed forces,  
31 and veterans groups, to study the possible benefits of  
32 hyperbaric treatment for veterans suffering from post-traumatic  
33 stress disorder and traumatic brain injury; and

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35           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, in considering  
36 the feasibility of hyperbaric treatment as a treatment for  
37 veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and  
38 traumatic brain injury, is requested to take into account any  
39 waivers or subsidies available from Medicare and Medicaid to  
40 facilitate hyperbaric oxygen treatment for veterans in need of  
41 treatment; and

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43           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
44 Services is requested to report to the Legislature, no later



1 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
2 of 2015, on any findings and recommendations concerning the  
3 possible benefits and implementation of hyperbaric oxygen  
4 treatment for veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress  
5 disorder and traumatic brain injury; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human  
9 Services, the Director of Health, the Executive Director of the  
10 Office of Veterans Services, and the Dean of the University of  
11 Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.  
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OFFERED BY: *Anne Inez K...*

