

# SCR 39 / SR 14

**Measure Title:** 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.

**Report Title:** Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment for U.S. Veterans Suffering From Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury

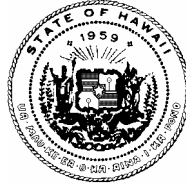
**Description:**

**Companion:**

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** HMS/PSM/HTH

**Introducer(s):** KIM, Taniguchi, Wakai



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 27, 2014

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.C.R. 39/S.R. 14 – 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**

Hearing: Thursday, March 27, 2014; 1:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the resolution is to have the Department of Human Services to create a task force to study the possible benefits of hyperbaric treatment for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury and submit a report to the 2015 Legislature on any findings and recommendations concerning the possible benefits and implementation of hyperbaric oxygen treatment for veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure to study the possible benefits of hyperbaric treatment for

veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, however, we believe that the work of this task force does not belong within the DHS.

There are other state agencies or advisory boards that would be better suited to convene and study the possible benefits of hyperbaric treatment stated in this resolution such as the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine, that is already conducting research and clinical trials as part of the White House Joining Forces initiative on brain injury, or the State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board under the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.