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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING JUNE 27, 2016, AS "POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS DAY" TO ENCOURAGE ALL PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND MILITARY SERVICE PROVIDERS TO CONTINUE EDUCATING SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES, VICTIMS OF ABUSE, CRIMES, AND NATURAL DISASTERS, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE CAUSES, SYMPTOMS, AND TREATMENT FOR POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURIES.

1           WHEREAS, the brave men and women of the United States Armed  
2 Forces who proudly serve the United States and risk their lives  
3 to protect our freedom, deserve the investment of every possible  
4 resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional  
5 well-being; and

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7           WHEREAS, combat operational stress has historically been  
8 viewed as a mental illness caused by a pre-existing flaw of  
9 character or ability, or both, and the term "Post-Traumatic  
10 Stress Disorder" (PTSD) carries a stigma that perpetuates this  
11 misconception; and

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13           WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress can occur not only after a  
14 traumatic event experienced in combat, but also after rape,  
15 sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, child abuse,  
16 automobile accidents, train wrecks, airplane crashes, bombings,  
17 and natural disasters; and

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19           WHEREAS, referring to the complications from post-traumatic  
20 stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and bias against  
21 mental illness that discourages those suffering from post-  
22 traumatic stress from seeking proper and timely medical  
23 treatment; and

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25           WHEREAS, making the condition less stigmatizing and more  
26 honorable can favorably influence those affected and encourage



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1 them to seek timely treatment without fear of retribution or  
2 shame and will diminish the PTSD suicide rate; and

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4 WHEREAS, all those who are suffering from post-traumatic  
5 stress injuries deserve consideration and those who have  
6 received wounds in service to this Nation further deserve  
7 respect and recognition; now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
10 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
11 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that June 27, 2016, be  
12 designated as "Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day" to encourage  
13 all public, private, and military service providers to continue  
14 educating service members and veterans and their families,  
15 victims of abuse, crimes, and natural disasters, and the general  
16 public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment for post-  
17 traumatic stress injuries; and

18  
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Adjutant  
21 General, Director of Health, and the Director of the Office of  
22 Veterans' Services.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 11 2016

