



HCR129

Measure Title: 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.

Report Title: June 27, 2016, Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day

Description:

Companion: [HR82](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: PSM

Introducer(s): ITO

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 129 / HOUSE RESOLUTION 82
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

BY
MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
April 14, 2016

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

I am Major General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in support of the intent of House Concurrent Resolution 129 and House Resolution 82.

These resolutions will help to increase public awareness of the causes, symptoms and treatment regiments for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

What is PTSD? At the Department of Veterans Affairs PTSD website states:

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can occur after someone goes through a traumatic event like combat, assault, or disaster. Most people have some stress reactions after a trauma. If the reactions don't go away over time or disrupt your life, you may have PTSD.

The number of reported cases of PTSD have increased after 26 years of military engagement in the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan. Our women veterans suffer higher rates of PTSD and those number will only increase after the recent Department of Defense decision to allow women to serve in all combat related career fields.

Efforts to increase public awareness will help reduce the stigma of PTSD for those who served.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of the intent of House Concurrent Resolution 129 and House Resolution 82.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 129 (HSCR 1356-16),
DESIGNATING JUNE 27, 2016, AS “POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS DAY”
TO ENCOURAGE ALL PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND MILITARY SERVICE PROVIDERS TO
CONTINUE EDUCATING SERVICE MEMBERS, 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.

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN, JR.
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS’ SERVICES

April 14, 2016
1:30 p.m.

Aloha, Chair Nishihara and Vice Chair Espero, and members of the Committee:

I’m Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Concurrent Resolution 129 (HSCR 1356-16) as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

This measure requests that June 27th, 2016 be designated as “Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day” to heighten awareness through education the causes, symptoms and affects of this condition and injury. Also included is how this condition affects members in our community, our military service members, Veterans and their loved ones. Additionally, this measure also highlights the efforts of our healthcare service providers at all levels who provide treatment to those who require counseling and assistance.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR129 on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 1:23:07 PM

HCR129

Submitted on: 4/11/2016

Testimony for PSM on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR129 on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 9:52:41 PM

HCR129

Submitted on: 4/11/2016

Testimony for PSM on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Youth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR129 on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 8:09:22 AM

HCR129

Submitted on: 4/12/2016

Testimony for PSM on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Rae Gee
Email: raegee2012@gmail.com

Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental Affairs
And Military Affairs
Hawaii State Legislature
House of the Senate
415 South Beretania Street, Room 229,
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honorable Senator Nishihara, Chair, and,
Honorable Will Espero, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Subject: Testimony for Thursday, April 14, 2016, HCR 129, "Designating June 27, 2016 as Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day"

I strongly support House Concurrent Resolution 129, and urge approval of this measure.

My name is Rae Gee and I am currently experiencing post-traumatic stress. I am not a war veteran, or member of the United States Armed Forces, who risked their lives saving our country. I am a civil-servant that works for the government and has and continually experienced post-traumatic stress at work derived from a hostile work environment.

My case is confidential and I cannot share the details of the source of the stress, but I am suffering injuries from incidents that occur the same way that those who have received physical or mental wounds in service to this Nation. Those injured deserves respect and recognition, and not the stigma of a mental illness.

Anyone who has this disorder deserves proper and timely treatment and no stigmatism of a mental illness, and should be encouraged to seek treatment without fear or, retribution or shame.

I strongly urge your committee to pass this measure and allow June 27, 2016 to be designated as "Post Traumatic Stress Awareness Day" to encourage everyone, all service providers, medical professionals, to continue educating service members and their families, victims of abuse, crimes, and the general public, of post-traumatic stress injuries, derived from war or just everyday life. Post-traumatic stress can happen to anyone.

Sincerely,
Signed,
Rae Gee

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: hawaiifishingfanatic@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR129 on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 3:02:17 PM

HCR129

Submitted on: 4/13/2016

Testimony for PSM on Apr 14, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Important measure to bring awareness of PTSD that has affected many members of my family and friends who served honorably in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. I have seen the devastating effects it can have on military families while living in PA and HI, where according to the VA, there are more than 236,000 Gulf War veterans. Hawai'i alone has more than 51,000 Gulf War veterans. By giving a day of recognition for our veterans affected by PTSD and others who have been affected in traumatic situations, it'll give them the opportunity not to be ashamed of their illness and reach out for help. In addition, recognizing the efforts of our military services outreach, caregivers, spouses and friends who continue to sacrifice their time to help those who have endured PTSD. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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