
HOUSE RESOLUTION

DECLARING JUNE 27 OF EACH YEAR AS POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY
AWARENESS DAY AND DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JUNE OF EACH
YEAR AS POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS MONTH IN
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States possess the
2 basic human right to the preservation of personal dignity; and
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4 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States deserve the
5 investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting
6 physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and
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8 WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as Post-Traumatic Stress
9 Disorder (PTSD) was first recognized and defined by the American
10 Psychiatric Association in 1980 to more accurately understand
11 and treat veterans who had endured severe operational combat
12 stress; and
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14 WHEREAS, combat stress injuries have historically been
15 unjustly portrayed as a mental illness caused by a preexisting
16 flaw of character or ability, and that the word "disorder"
17 carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception, which can
18 discourage the injured from seeking proper and timely medical
19 treatment; and
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21 WHEREAS, referring to the complications from combat
22 operational stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and
23 bias against mental illness; and
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25 WHEREAS, it has been shown through electro-magnetic imaging
26 that post-traumatic stress conditions are more accurately
27 described as an injury rather than as a disorder; and
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29 WHEREAS, severe post-traumatic stress is a very common and
30 treatable injury to the brain, which can occur following extreme



1 traumatic events including, but not limited to, interpersonal
2 violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, or natural
3 disasters; and
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5 WHEREAS, referring to the condition as Post-Traumatic
6 Stress Injury (PTSI) is less stigmatizing and viewed as more
7 honorable, and this designation can favorably influence those
8 affected and encourage them to seek treatment without fear of
9 retribution or shame; and
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11 WHEREAS, while all citizens suffering from PTSI deserve
12 compassion and consideration, those men and women of the United
13 States Armed Forces who have received these wounds in action
14 against an enemy of the United States deserve our special
15 tribute and acknowledgement; and
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17 WHEREAS, PTSI is an injury that is repairable, and timely
18 treatment can diminish complications and prevent suicides among
19 the injured; and
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21 WHEREAS, Michigan was the first state to pass a resolution
22 recognizing a PTSI awareness day in 2014 and since that time 39
23 other states, as well as the United States House of
24 Representatives, have passed similar resolutions officially
25 proclaiming support for PTSI awareness; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
29 2019, that the twenty-seventh day of June of each year shall be
30 designated as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the month of June of each year
33 shall be designated as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness
34 Month in Hawaii; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and
37 the United States Department of Veteran Affairs are urged to
38 continue working to educate victims of interpersonal violence,
39 combat, life-threatening accidents, or natural disasters and
40 their families, as well as the general public, about the causes,
41 symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be transmitted
 2 to the Governor for appropriate proclamation and execution and
 3 to the Secretary of State of the United States for appropriate
 4 publication and preservation; and

5
 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 7 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of
 8 Veteran Affairs; Governor; Director of Health; Director of the
 9 State Office of Veterans Services; and the Executive Director of
 10 Honor For All, a non-profit organization dedicated to
 11 eliminating the stigma attached to post-traumatic stress, and to
 12 preserving the dignity of the injured while working to avert
 13 impulsive or dangerous behavior which might lead to suicide.

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