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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT AS MEMBERS TO THE STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH AT LEAST TWO INDIVIDUALS WITH DEMONSTRATED KNOWLEDGE OF OR WORK EXPERIENCE INVOLVING NATIVE HAWAIIAN CONCEPTS OF WELL-BEING, CULTURALLY-GROUNDED MENTAL HEALTH METHODOLOGIES, OR TRADITIONAL HEALING OR HEALTH PRACTICES.

1           WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians experience distinct health  
2 disparities that pervade their day-to-day well-being and hinder  
3 their overall health; and  
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5           WHEREAS, mental health disparities between Native Hawaiians  
6 and other ethnicities begin in adolescence; and  
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8           WHEREAS, mental health data demonstrate that youth suicide  
9 attempts and death rates are highest among Native Hawaiians; and  
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11           WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian youth are two times more likely  
12 than their Caucasian peers to attempt suicide; and  
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14           WHEREAS, suicide and attempted suicide among Native  
15 Hawaiians have profound impacts on families and communities; and  
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17           WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian keiki are overrepresented among  
18 victims of abuse and neglect; and  
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20           WHEREAS, by high school, female Native Hawaiian students  
21 experience feelings of sadness or hopelessness to a greater  
22 degree than their peers; and  
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24           WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian youth maintain some of the highest  
25 rates of drug use in the State; and  
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27           WHEREAS, these mental health disparities continue for  
28 Native Hawaiians through adulthood and into their senior years;  
29 and  
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1 WHEREAS, a significant number of Native Hawaiians underuse  
2 existing mental health services, seek therapy only after their  
3 illnesses becomes severe, or leave mental health treatment  
4 prematurely; and

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6 WHEREAS, cultural incongruence with Western mental health  
7 approaches may affect Native Hawaiians' willingness to use  
8 mental health services; and

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10 WHEREAS, experts find that patients are more likely to seek  
11 out and use mental health services when their values and beliefs  
12 are congruent with the interventions provided; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, Act 155, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, codified a  
15 commitment to address health disparities in section  
16 226-20(a)(7), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which includes the  
17 prioritization of "programs, services, interventions and  
18 activities that address identified social determinants of health  
19 to improve Native Hawaiian health and well-being" among the  
20 objectives to be included in planning for the State's socio-  
21 cultural advancement with regard to health; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, eliminating health disparities and achieving  
24 health equity across demographics is a state and national  
25 priority; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, because the State Council on Mental Health is  
28 responsible for advising, reviewing and evaluating the  
29 allocation and adequacy of mental health resources and services  
30 in the State, it is imperative that the Council include members  
31 with knowledge of or work experience involving Native Hawaiian  
32 concepts of well-being, culturally-grounded mental health  
33 methodologies, or traditional healing or health practices; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, in light of the commitment embodied in Act 155,  
36 Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, it is in the best interest of the  
37 State to ensure that there is appropriate Native Hawaiian  
38 cultural representation on the State Council on Mental Health;  
39 and

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41 WHEREAS, pursuant to sections 334-10 and 26-34, Hawaii  
42 Revised Statutes, the members of the State Council on Mental



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1 Health are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent  
2 of the Senate; now, therefore,

3

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
6 2019, that the Governor is urged to appoint as members to the  
7 State Council on Mental Health at least two individuals with  
8 demonstrated knowledge of or work experience involving Native  
9 Hawaiian concepts of well-being, culturally-grounded mental  
10 health methodologies, or traditional healing or health  
11 practices; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Chairperson of the  
15 State Council on Mental Health.

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OFFERED BY:

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MAR - 8 2019

