



RONALD D. KOUCHI
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MICHELLE N. KIDANI
VICE PRESIDENT

The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

June 18, 2021

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CHIEF CLERK
CAROL TANIGUCHI

Colonel Ronald P. Han, Jr.
Director
State Office of Veterans' Services
Hawai'i State Department of Defense
459 Patterson Rd., E-Wing, #1-A103
Honolulu, HI 96819

Dear Colonel Han:

I transmit herewith a copy of Senate Resolution No. 214, which was adopted by the Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021.

Sincerely,

CAROL TANIGUCHI
Clerk of the Senate

Enclosure

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT JUNE 27 OF EACH YEAR BE RECOGNIZED 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 possess the basic human right to the
2 preservation of personal dignity; and
3

4 WHEREAS, all citizens deserve the investment of every
5 possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and
6 emotional well-being; and
7

8 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress can result from any number
9 of stressors, including combat, interpersonal violence, severe
10 impact collisions, natural disaster, and exposure to the
11 suffering of others; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as Post-Traumatic Stress
14 Disorder (PTSD) was initially formulated in 1980 by the American
15 Psychiatric Association to commonly describe and categorize the
16 psychological aftermath of severe traumatic distress; and
17

18 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress has historically been
19 groundlessly mischaracterized as a mental illness caused by a
20 preexisting flaw of character or ability, and the term
21 "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception;
22 and
23

24 WHEREAS, it has been shown though electro-magnetic imaging
25 that severe post-traumatic stress causes physical changes in the
26 brain that are more accurately described as an injury than a
27 disorder; and
28

29 WHEREAS, referring to post-traumatic stress as a disorder
30 can disparage and discourage those injured from seeking timely
31 care for their behavioral health needs; and
32

33 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury that exhibits
34 compliance with criteria B through H of section 309.81 of the



S.R. NO. 214

1 Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders deserves equal
2 compensation strictly matching that presently allowed for post-
3 traumatic stress disorder; and

4
5 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress
6 injury deserve compassion and consideration, and the brave men
7 and women who received these wounds while risking their lives to
8 protect our freedom, health, and welfare deserve special
9 recognition of their gallantry, commitment, devotion, and
10 sacrifice; and

11
12 WHEREAS, timely access to appropriate treatment of post-
13 traumatic stress injury can diminish complications and prevent
14 suicide; now, therefore,

15
16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
18 that the twenty-seventh day of June of each year should be
19 designated as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and
20 observed as a day of recognition and appreciation; and

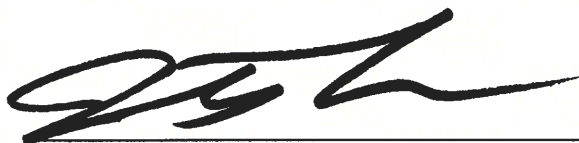
21
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the month of June of each year
23 shall be designated as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness
24 Month in Hawaii; and

25
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and
27 the United States Department of Veteran Affairs are urged to
28 continue working to educate victims of interpersonal violence,
29 combat, life-threatening accidents, or natural disasters; their
30 families; and the general public, about the causes, symptoms,
31 and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury; and

32
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of
35 State and Secretary of Veteran Affairs; Governor; Director of
36 Health; **Director of the State Office of Veterans Services**; and
37 Executive Director of Honor For All.


38
39
40

OFFERED BY: _____



I hereby certify that this is a full, true, and correct copy of the original filed in this office.

Dated: MAR 31 2021


Assistant Clerk of the Senate
State of Hawaii

