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# HOUSE CONCURRENT 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



1           WHEREAS, these mental health disparities continue for  
2 Native Hawaiians through adulthood and into their senior years;  
3 and  
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5           WHEREAS, a significant number of Native Hawaiians underuse  
6 existing mental health services, seek therapy only after their  
7 illnesses becomes severe, or leave mental health treatment  
8 prematurely; and  
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10           WHEREAS, cultural incongruence with Western mental health  
11 approaches may affect Native Hawaiians' willingness to use  
12 mental health services; and  
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14           WHEREAS, experts find that patients are more likely to seek  
15 out and use mental health services when their values and beliefs  
16 are congruent with the interventions provided; and  
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18           WHEREAS, Act 155, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, codified a  
19 commitment to address health disparities in section  
20 226-20(a)(7), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which includes the  
21 prioritization of "programs, services, interventions and  
22 activities that address identified social determinants of health  
23 to improve Native Hawaiian health and well-being" among the  
24 objectives to be included in planning for the State's socio-  
25 cultural advancement with regard to health; and  
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27           WHEREAS, eliminating health disparities and achieving  
28 health equity across demographics is a state and national  
29 priority; and  
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31           WHEREAS, because the State Council on Mental Health is  
32 responsible for advising, reviewing and evaluating the  
33 allocation and adequacy of mental health resources and services  
34 in the State, it is imperative that the Council include members  
35 with knowledge of or work experience involving Native Hawaiian  
36 concepts of well-being, culturally-grounded mental health  
37 methodologies, or traditional healing or health practices; and  
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39           WHEREAS, in light of the commitment embodied in Act 155,  
40 Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, it is in the best interest of the  
41 State to ensure that there is appropriate Native Hawaiian



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1 cultural representation on the State Council on Mental Health;  
2 and

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WHEREAS, pursuant to sections 334-10 and 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the members of the State Council on Mental Health are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate; now, therefore,

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

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

OFFERED BY:

Stanley A. ...  
Lyn ...

John M. ...  
John ...  
Calvin ...  
Dang ...  
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