

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

Proclamation

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic challenged the mental health of our youth and families and brought mental health to the forefront of our conversations; and

WHEREAS we recognize that a youth's mental health and physical health are equally important, and acceptance of those who struggle reduces the fear, worry, blame, and shame that families and their loved one's experience; and

WHEREAS talking about mental health with children and adolescents de-stigmatizes the issue and increases the likelihood that those who are struggling will seek help and access resources; and

WHEREAS children and adolescents with mental health challenges and their families benefit from access to timely resources, services and support, that are family driven, youth-guided, and culturally appropriate; and

WHEREAS it is time to move beyond the term awareness, and redefine how we address children's mental health in an effort to foster acceptance and end prejudice and discrimination; and

WHEREAS we accept that our youth are facing serious challenges ahead and that one in five experiences mental health issues, which must be met with understanding and support; and

WHEREAS we accept that bias and discrimination towards individuals who experience mental health challenges creates a barrier to seeking treatment and must be eliminated. The future wellbeing of our country depends on how we support and invest in the next generation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MITCHELL D. ROTH, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 1-7, 2022, as

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH ACCEPTANCE WEEK

in the County of Hawai'i in support of this significant healthcare need, and extend deep appreciation to the Children's Mental Health Acceptance Planning Group, the Hawai'i Department of Health's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division and Epic 'Ohana Youth Partners, made up of community organizations dedicated to serving children and families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused The Seal of the County of Hawai'i to be affixed. Done this 1st day of May 2022, in Hilo, Hawai'i.



Mitchell D. Roth

MITCHELL D. ROTH
Mayor/ Hawai'i County