



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the coronavirus pandemic challenged the mental health of our youth and families and brought it to the forefront of our conversations; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that a youth's mental health is just as important as his or her physical health, and acceptance of those who struggle reduces fear, worry, blame, and shame that families and their loved ones experience; and

**WHEREAS**, talking about mental health with our children and adolescents destigmatizes their view of it and increases the likelihood 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 supports 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**, it is time to accept that 1 in 5 youth experiences a mental health challenge, that mental health challenges must be met with understanding and support, and bias and discrimination toward individuals who experience mental health challenges create a barrier to seeking treatment that must be eliminated; and

**WHEREAS**, our youth face serious challenges that need to be addressed, and the future well-being of our country depends on how we support and invest in the next generation,

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK BLANGIARDI**, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, do hereby proclaim May 2022, to be

## **CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH ACCEPTANCE MONTH**

in support of this significant health care need and to extend appreciation to the Children's Mental Health Acceptance Planning Group, co-led by the Hawai'i Department of Health's Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division and Epic 'Ohana Youth Partners, and made up of community organizations dedicated to serving children and families, for providing leadership for mental health acceptance events.

Done this 1st day of May, 2022,  
in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

  
RICK BLANGIARDI

