



Proclamation

WHEREAS, mental health is an important public health issue that should be discussed with the youth, adults and families in our communities; and

WHEREAS, mental health is as important as physical health, and it is vital to destigmatize mental health by talking about it openly and honestly, and in doing so, increase the likelihood that those who are struggling will seek help and accept resources, services and support; and

WHEREAS, moving beyond the term “awareness” redefines how we address mental health to foster acceptance, end prejudice and discrimination, and act to change attitudes, behaviors and systems; and

WHEREAS, we accept that one in five youth has a mental, emotional, developmental or behavioral disorder, that one in five adults live with a mental illness, and one in five adults age 55 or older experience some type of mental health concern; and

WHEREAS, we accept that bias and discrimination toward individuals experiencing mental health challenges creates a barrier to seeking treatment and we must meet it with understanding and support; and

WHEREAS, we accept that the future well-being of our community depends on our acceptance of people with mental health challenges, and when people need help, how we support and ensure access to crucial resources and vital services,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, do hereby proclaim May 2023 to be

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

to encourage dialog and acceptance of this significant healthcare need, and to express appreciation to the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division, Adult Mental Health Division, Children’s Mental Health Acceptance Planning Group, and community organizations dedicated to serving youth, adults, families and communities, for spearheading mental health awareness and acceptance events across O’ahu.

Done this 1st day of May, 2023,
in Honolulu, Hawai‘i.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Blangiardi".

RICK BLANGIARDI

