

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
PROCLAMATION

Mental Health Month

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

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

WHEREAS, we recognize that mental health is just as important as physical health and acceptance of those who struggle reduces fear, worry, blame, and shame families and their loved one’s experience. Talking about mental health destigmatizes people’s view of it and increases the likelihood those who are struggling will seek help and accept resources, services, and support; and

WHEREAS, we accept that one in five youth has a mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral disorder; and


WHEREAS, we accept that one in five adults live with a mental illness; and

WHEREAS, we accept that one in five older adults ages 55 years or older experience some types of mental health concern; and

WHEREAS we accept that bias and discrimination toward individuals who experience 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 state depends on our acceptance of people with mental health challenges and how we support and ensure access to resources when people need help.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR, COUNTY OF KAUA’I, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as **Mental Health Month** in support of this significant healthcare need and extend deep appreciation to the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division, Adult Mental Health Division, the Children’s Mental Health Acceptance Planning Group, and community organizations dedicated to serving youth, adults, families, and communities for providing statewide leadership for these mental health events.



Derek S.K. Kawakami
Mayor, County of Kaua’i
State of Hawai’i

