

COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I

Proclamation

WHEREAS, each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. Since 1949, the month of May has been recognized as “**Mental Health Awareness Month**”, to raise awareness, educate the public, fight stigma, provide support, and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families; and,

WHEREAS our mental wellness is just as important as our physical health and includes our emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing and affects how we feel, act, think, behave, make decisions, and handle stress; and

WHEREAS, even before the pandemic, millions of Americans were experiencing stress, trauma, anxiety, and heightened level of depression. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated those conditions, creating an unprecedented mental health crisis across our country; and,

WHEREAS mental health challenges among our youth have also been particularly acute due to disruptions in routines, increased social isolation, and learning loss. Research has shown that social media plays a central role in increasing mental health challenges among young people; and,

WHEREAS many communities lack sufficient numbers of mental health providers, and our fragmented healthcare system makes it difficult for people to access treatment. Tragically, too many people feel ashamed to reach out for help, or are stigmatized for seeking care; and,

WHEREAS community mental health organizations, including Hawai‘i CARES, State of Hawai‘i Adult Mental Health Division, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and Suicide Prevention Resource Centers, provide information, resources, advocacy, and education to improve the quality of life of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

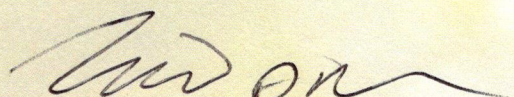
*NOW THEREFORE, I, MITCHELL D. ROTH, Mayor of the County of Hawai‘i, do hereby proclaim the month of **May 2023** as,*

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

in the County of Hawai‘i, to renew our commitment to provide support and quality care to those who are experiencing mental health challenges to live healthy, fulfilling lives, and to recognize the dedicated mental health providers whose service and support improves the lives of so many.

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 2023, in Hilo, Hawai‘i.




MITCHELL D. ROTH
MAYOR