



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, although traumatic brain injuries are preventable, brain injury is a leading cause of death and disability in the United States with at least 2.8 million Americans sustaining a traumatic brain injury each year, and more than 5.3 million children and adults living with a permanent brain injury-related disability; and

**WHEREAS**, 47.9 percent of traumatic brain injuries are caused by falls, 17.1 percent are due to being struck by or against something, 13.2 percent are attributed to motor vehicle accidents, 8.3 percent are caused by assaults, and 13.2 percent are due to other or unknown causes; and

**WHEREAS**, on average, each year 12,028 individuals with head injuries visit Hawai'i emergency departments, resulting in 1,643 hospitalizations and 222 deaths from head injury, and annual medical charges in excess of \$35 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the physical, cognitive, and behavioral consequences of neurotrauma are lifelong for a brain injury survivor and can significantly impact quality of life, making access to resources vitally important; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i Department of Health Neurotrauma Program supports survivors and families of stroke, spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury, helping them to identify and obtain access to services; and

**WHEREAS**, Brain Injury Awareness Month is observed during March to increase understanding of brain injury as a chronic condition, reduce the stigma associated with having a brain injury, and improve care and support for brain injury survivors and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, in support of Brain Injury Awareness Month, Honolulu Hale will be illuminated in blue, the nationally recognized color of brain injury awareness,

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK BLANGIARDI**, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, do hereby proclaim March 2021 to be

## **BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH**

to emphasize the importance of protecting your brain because prevention is key, bring attention to the challenges faced by head injury survivors, and make residents of O'ahu aware of the Hawai'i Department of Health Neurotrauma Program and resources.



Done this 1st day of March, 2021,  
in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

*Rick Blangiardi*

RICK BLANGIARDI