



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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August 23, 2021

Spinal cord injury survivor shares his personal story to encourage safety and awareness during Hawai'i Beach Safety Week

Event:

Virtual interviews are available with Hawai'i resident Yurik Resetnikov during Beach Safety Week. Resetnikov was at Sandy Beach with the paddling team he coached when he went into the water to bodysurf, caught a wave, hit the bottom, and fractured his spine. One of his friends found him and brought him to shore, and the lifeguards began CPR. He woke up in the ambulance on the way to the hospital, where he was placed in intensive care. After two months, he was transferred to the mainland for rehabilitation, and then returned home to Hawai'i approximately 8-10 months later.

Resetnikov is not alone. Each year in Hawaii, approximately 150 people seek medical treatment for a spinal cord injury (SCI). Ocean activities, including being "tossed by a wave", bodyboarding, bodysurfing, surfing, and diving into the water, are the second leading cause of SCI in Hawai'i, after falls.

Description:

Resetnikov was a firefighter at the time of his injury and was always comfortable in the water, having grown up going to the beach. He hopes his story will help others understand the importance of beach safety and that injuries can happen to anyone, even those very experienced in the ocean.

Resetnikov is an ambassador for [Surf for Special Needs](#), an organization that provides therapeutic ocean experiences for individuals and families with disabilities on Hawai'i Island. He also works with [Able-Bodied](#), an

organization that provides able-bodied experiences to survivors of spinal cord or other injuries.

Date: **Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021**

Time: **11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Location: Contact Chelsea Ko to receive the Zoom information for a virtual interview with Yurik Resetnikov and Chelsea Ko of the Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Division.

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