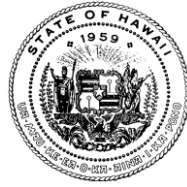


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAI'I  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I



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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## NEUROTRAUMA ADVISORY BOARD (NTAB)

### MEETING MINUTES

October 24, 2024

Present: BJ Wade, Molly Trihey, Scott Sagum, TJ Donayri, Stella Wong, Valerie Yamada, Bill Rodrigues, Dr. Kent Yamamoto, Matt Wells

Absent: Angie Enoka, Milton Takara

Others: Jessica Wilson, Queens Medical Center; Nicole Gustie, Queens Medical Center; Stephanie Edwards, Kauai BIG

DOH Staff: Michele Tong, Neurotrauma Program

**I. Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 1:35 pm by NTAB Chairperson, Scott Sagum

#### **II. Approval of Minutes from August 22, 2024**

Board member Stella Wong motioned to accept the minutes with no changes or edits. Board member BJ Wade seconded the motion. All board members present voted in favor of the minutes being accepted as written. No questions.

Voting to accept the minutes: Ayes 9 Nays 0 Abstentions 0

#### **III. Review of Agenda**

Agenda accepted as written. No questions or discussions.

#### **IV. New Business**

A. Surfers Myelopathy – Jessica Wilson

Surfer's Myelopathy is a non-traumatic spinal cord injury associated with back pain and a loss of feeling in individuals who are new to surfing. Prolonged or sudden arching of the lower back compromises blood flow to the spinal cord, resulting in paralysis. Affected individuals are typically young, healthy, new to surfing persons, who have no history of back problems. In a recent study, 64% of affected individuals showed zero or partial improvement at the time of discharge. (Choi et al. 2018; Alva-Diaz et al. 2022) the top options for treatment at this time are steroids and physical therapy. Much work still needs to be done to learn about Surfer's Myelopathy and suitable treatments. A proposed acronym to raise awareness on how to prevent Surfer's Myelopathy:

**S** – Sit up on your board

**P** – Pain in your back and legs

**I** – Imbalance/inability to walk

**N** – Numbness in the legs

**E** – Educate new surfers

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. Pacific Disabilities Center – Violet Horvath**

No learning moment presentation for this meeting.

### **B. Neurotrauma news across our State**

#### **Brain Injury Association of Hawaii – BJ Wade**

September and October BIOSG meetings included presentations from Brain Health Hawaii and a speech therapist. October was busy with BIHi volunteering at Aliamanu's National Night Out and hosting the annual Pacific Club fundraiser which raised \$10,000 to support BIHi's activities. Additionally, for the Boys and

Girls Club of Hawaii, in Waianae, BIHi provided funding to have HBL staff run the bike rodeo on October 15 and volunteered at the skate event on October 22.

Queens Medical Center (QMC) – TJ Donayri

From September to November, QMC – Trauma, has done or will be doing numerous events. Community outreach has included helmet giveaways paired with safety tips for injury prevention. October helmet distribution events included Child and Youth Day, MTA Keiki Fair, and Boys and Girls Club Waianae. QMC Trauma’s other activities have consisted of teaching medical students and emergency preparedness workers “Stop The Bleed” protocol, car seat checks at a Kaua’i charter school, and a Motor Vehicle Crash presentation from a trauma care perspective for Grand Rounds.

Queens Medical Center (QMC) –Nicole Gustie

From May 2024 – August 2024 QMC Stroke and Hawaii Stroke Coalition conducted a stroke campaign that included media and community outreach. Outreach included being able to identify the signs and symptoms of stroke and knowing the best action to take when a stroke is suspected is calling 9 -1-1. The campaign involved 21 events that resulted in more than 2,209 unique in-person interactions. The media portion of the HSC Stroke Campaign 2024 reached five million (5,000,000) via tv appearances and targeted social media. An impressive 77.49% of viewers watched to completion, the “pre-roll” (video played prior to requested content) stroke awareness video.

Kapiolani Medical Center (QMC) – Michele Tong for Lisa Dau

Numerous safety events across Oahu and Kauai, doing car seat checks, helmet giveaways, and injury prevention awareness. With numerous partners, KMCWC

participated in health fairs, National Night Out, Child and Youth Day, and HFD Family Day. In addition to outreach activities, presentations and trainings for car seat safety and certifying technicians were completed in August and September.

SCI Survivor – Molly Trihey

Upon discussion of working on the NTP Strategic Plan, Molly suggested meeting monthly rather than every month. Shorter meetings with greater frequency will be more manageable for peoples' schedules and provide continuity for the work being done.

Stroke Survivor– Scott Sagum

Scott attended Kauai BIG support group and commented on how the therapeutic element is working well. Also, in-person meetings challenge survivors to get out of their comfort zone and stretch the boundaries of what they can do.

Kauai BIG – Stephanie Edwards

Participation in the support has doubled from September's meeting. One member shared that they are in the process of writing a book. In addition to presenters, the meeting starts with a breathing exercise and ends with art therapy. November's presentation will be on sound healing.

Hui Malama Po'o - Val Yamada

Group members came together at RHOP in October to do card making. This was a big step for the group as it has taken a long time for members to feel comfortable enough to start coming back to meet in-person, since the pandemic. The group is also in communication with Catholic Charities to participate in the upcoming "Show and Sell".

TBI Survivor – *Bill Rodriguez*

Attended and volunteered at the recent BIHi fundraiser held at the Pacific Club. The event featured the importance of wearing a helmet to minimize brain injury in the event of a collision. Bill participated in the helmet parade, sporting a motorcycle helmet.

Catholic Charities Hawaii – *Stella Wong*

CCH continues to promote education on caring for a person with dementia. The public can access <https://www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org/caring-for-persons-living-with-dementia-webinars-and-presentations/> free of charge for up to date tips and information. Plans in the works to begin presentations on dementia in collaboration with QMC.

Hawaii Pacific Health - *Matt Wells*

Debut of Matt’s first professional publication, “*Workplace violence in trauma centers; an American Trauma Society Position Statement*”. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of 2018, healthcare workers were 5 times more likely to experience workplace violence than general population workers. Actions that can be taken to stem the tide of violence include enacting legislation to increase penalties against perpetrators and enforcing regulations to build a workplace culture of non-violence. <https://tsaco.bmj.com/content/9/1/e001580>

Kona Brain Injury Support Group - *Michele Tong for Karen Klemme*

- September – reading after a TBI
- October – Medicare benefits
- November - Advocacy

VI. DOH Update – Neurotrauma Program - *Michele Tong*

NTP activities in September and October were/will be helmet and brain injury awareness events with our local partners, QMC, KMCWC, Kauai BIG, BIHi, and HBL. The 2 largest events are Children and Youth Day being held at Frank Fasi Park and the bike/skate rodeos happening at Boys and Girls Club, Waianae. NSF budget for FY 24:

Beginning Cash Balance:	\$645,148.38
Revenue:	\$435,073.58
Expenditures:	\$146,137.00 (Payroll/Operational)
Ending Cash Balance:	\$934,084.96

NTP Strategic Plan FY 25-30 has been signed and executed by DOH Director, Dr. Kenneth Fink and DDD Chief, Mary Brogan. NTAB members discussed scheduling options to work on NTP Strategic Plan FY 25-30 (monthly meetings versus special meetings). For now, the board decided NTP would reach out to members via email to work on the strategic plan and call special meetings if/when necessary. As his term with NTAB recently expired, it is unclear if Milton will choose to continue to serve. The board wishes to thank Milton Takara for his many years of service to the board and welcomes him to be a part of NTP and NTAB in the manner that works best for him.

## **VII. Announcements**

None

## **VIII. Next Neurotrauma Advisory Board Meeting**

Date: December 12, 2024

Time: 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Location: Diamond Head Health Center and Zoom

### **I. 2025 NTAB Meeting Dates**

February 27, April 24, June 26, August 28, October 23, December 11  
Meeting Adjourned at 3:39pm

DRAFT