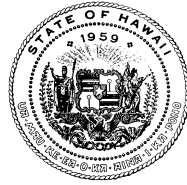


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAI'I  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., MGA, MPH  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## NEUROTRAUMA ADVISORY BOARD (NTAB)

### MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2025

Present: BJ Wade, Molly Trihey, Valerie Yamada, Bill Rodrigues, TJ Donayri, Matt Wells

Absent: Stella Wong, Dr. Kent Yamamoto, Scott Sagum, Angie Enoka

Others: Violet Horvath, Pacific Disabilities Center; Ryan Tamashiro, Pacific Disabilities Center; Kendall Zukeran, DOH Chronic Disease; Kiana Kaupiko, DOH Chronic Disease; Tani Salazar, Executive Office on Aging; Lauryn Reich, Executive Office on Aging; Troy Furutani, UH HCAMP; Karen Klemme, Kona BISG

DOH Staff: Michele Tong, Neurotrauma Program

**I. Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 1:33 pm by NTAB board member and STBIAB chairperson, William Rodrigues

### **II. Approval of Minutes from December 14, 2024**

Board member BJ Wade motioned to accept the minutes with no changes or edits. Board member Molly Trihey seconded the motion. All board members present voted in favor of the minutes being accepted with no further discussion, questions, or edits.

Voting to accept the minutes: Ayes 6 Nays 0 Abstentions 0

### III. Review of Agenda

Agenda accepted as written. No questions or discussions.

### IV. New Business

#### A. Executive Office on Aging (EOA) - Tani Salazar and Lauryn Reich

From EOA's Strategic Plan which includes a goal for addressing issues related to dementia, the Hawai'i Dementia Initiative was formed. Community members and stakeholders collaborate through action teams to research, strategize and implement a plan on the prevention of and living with dementia. The 7 action teams are: Early detection and diagnosis, Workforce development, Public awareness and education, Dementia caregiving, Brain health and risk reduction, Community/Clinical linkages and Data action teams. An overview of different types of dementia and its effects was shared along with risk factors and prevention strategies. By employing the 6 pillars of brain health – be social, engage your brain, manage stress, ongoing exercise, restorative sleep and eat right, a person can reduce their risk of acquiring dementia, the impact of dementia, and subsequent injuries that often accompany a dementia diagnosis.

#### B. UH HCAMP BrainSpace – Troy Furutani

UH's HCAMP BrainSpace materials have been used for years by educators, coaches, parents and student athletes to learn about keeping the brain safe when engaging in athletics. While the original content was created for high schoolers, the greatest number of users have been middle schoolers. The current objective is to update BrainSpace so it will reflect the latest knowledge and recommendations for everyone to be able to access brain safety information. The BrainSpace update will include video content and a short test to check for knowledge.

## V. Old Business

### A. Pacific Disabilities Center – Violet Horvath

Participating in Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) legislative committee and general board meetings looking at rights and access of persons living with a disability. Also conducted a stroke presentation for Kona Brain Injury Support Group in February.

### B. Neurotrauma news across our State

#### Brain Injury Association of Hawaii (BIHi) – BJ Wade

In February BIOSG will meet with Aloha Brain Fitness and 2 high school students participating in Workforce Pipeline. Workforce Pipeline connects the students to different community organizations so they can hear real life experiences of people living and working in the career/study path they are considering. Both students have expressed interest in neurology related fields. In March members are choosing to spend the day together at the zoo and in April will host Dr. Kent Yamamoto for a Q and A session on brain injury and rehabilitation.

The BIHi board is attending monthly DCAB meetings to monitor current legislation and meeting monthly with BIAA to discuss the impact White House decisions are having on TBI survivors. September 20, 2025 the BIHi board will be hosting an education and resource fair in Hilo.

#### Queens Medical Center (QMC) Trauma

No update

#### Queens Medical Center (QMC) Stroke – Michele Tong for QMC Stroke

Community outreach in December allowed Nicole to do stroke outreach at Kuhio Park Terrace. January outreach at Central District included stroke and surfer's myelopathy education. Upcoming outreach events include the HOSA Conference, 2 schools, and 5 community events.

Kapiolani Medical Center (KMCWC)

No update

SCI Survivor – Molly Trihey

No update

Hui Malama Po'o - Val Yamada

Since the pandemic, many members have found security in staying home and while they maintain phone contact, have not rejoined the support group for in person meetings. There are also potential new members with non-brain injury disabilities who have expressed interest in joining a support group. Before COVID the support group meetings were held in town. A number of interested parties are currently living on the west side of Oahu. To encourage participation, on March 20, 2025, 10am, Hui Malama Po'o will meet at Pearl Highlands Food Court for a coffee hour. At this time the support group is not open to others who are not already known to the group organizers.

TBI Survivor – Bill Rodriguez

No update

Kona Brain Injury Support Group - Michele Tong for Kona BI Support Group

- February - Stroke - BEFAST
- March – Scams

- April – Aging and Disability Resource Center

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

Below are major topics of the discussion related to activities for NTP Strategic Plan FY25-30, goal. Attached is a more detailed log of the strategic plan’s activities/discussion.

Goal 1: *In coordination with community partners, expand educational opportunities to the public sector on all neurotrauma injuries to increase awareness on the effects of neurotrauma and how to respond to an injury.*

Objectives 1.1 and 1.2: Discussion on objectives moved from getting a hard copy resource brochure into medical facilities for distribution to usefulness of this method of information sharing. In the past, use of this method has resulted in the information being overlooked or trashed.

Objective 1.3: Outreach to Generations Magazine and participation in their Windward Mall Health Fair, other event exhibitors expressed interest in partnering with NTP.

Objective 1.4: For a “building good habits” curriculum, the target population identified is 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade DOE students. Once curriculum is ready to roll out, members discussed approaching/teaching at smaller venues where students gather if DOE is not immediately accessible.

Goal 2: *In coordination with community partners, connect providers to educational opportunities to increase awareness of neurotrauma and improve service delivery and outcomes for the survivors they serve.*

Objective 2.1: Suggestions to facilitate communication as identified include survivor storytelling at venues where medical staff have an organized meeting/conference and doing outreach to students entering the medical field.

Objective 2.2: This objective is currently being met by UH's HCAMP updating BrainSpace videos and doing outreach to the athletic community.

*Goal 3: Expand survivors', family members', and caregivers' connections to available resources in Hawai'i.*

Objective 3.1: The need for effective communication in objective 3.1 overlaps with objective 1.2 in thinking about how to get the attention of stakeholders to become aware of and access available resources.

Objective 3.2: Maui is not currently represented on either of the DOH NT advisory boards and there is no known NT support group. Efforts will focus on outreach to the Maui NT community.

*Goal 4: Use data to identify the needs and service gaps for survivors of neurotrauma and family members/caregivers.*

Objectives 4.1: NTP is working on a contract to have UH reactivate the HNTR utilizing a self-help application which will give survivors and caregivers a tool to better manage their daily health and needs.

Objectives 4.2: Use of the application will produce analyzable data that can be de-identified to determine users' needs and gaps in service.

Going forward, board members have requested to receive emails prior to board meetings that would allow them to provide input on strategic plan items.

## **VII. Announcements**

None

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

Date: April 24, 2025

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 3:22pm