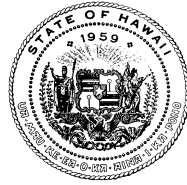


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAI'I  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I



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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## NEUROTRAUMA ADVISORY BOARD (NTAB)

### MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2026

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

Absent: Matt Wells

Others: Ryan Tamashiro, Pacific Disabilities Center; Troy Furutani, UH HCAMP; Jamie Higa, UH HCAMP; Nicole Gustie, QMC Stroke; Violet Horvath, Pacific Disabilities Center; Tani Salazar, Executive Office on Aging; Anna Asuncion-Lopez, Pacific Disabilities Center; Chelsea Pang, VA PIHCS; Kendall Zukeran, DOH Chronic Disease Management Branch; Nicole Navarro, BSW Student at HPU

DOH Staff: Donovan Casison, Community Resources Branch; Michele Tong, Neurotrauma Program

- I. **Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 1:30 pm by NTAB board member, Scott Sagum - Quorum was established.
- II. **Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted** - No public or written testimonies submitted

**III. Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2025** - 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 at the time of voting voted in favor of the minutes being accepted with no further discussion, questions, or edits. Voting to accept the minutes: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstentions 0

**IV. Old Business**

**A. Update Neurotrauma Strategic Plan Fiscal Year 2025-2030**

- The Partner Agency Workgroup (PAW) conducted their first interview to discover potential opportunities to collaborate with other organizations. Tani Salazar from Executive Office on Aging shared her office's recent campaign on brain health awareness involving TBI, stroke, and dementia. Four potential opportunities for partnering were identified:
  1. Public and professional education to promote brain health, risk reduction, and early detection of compromised brain health and function.
  2. Fostering communication and collaboration between public and professionals statewide.
  3. Identifying community-based approaches to increase public awareness and access to resource information.
  4. Collaborating on a new chapter in the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) to include brain health.
- Neurotrauma Program (NTP) staff reported on an informal conversation with Chelsea Pang of the Veterans Administration Pacific Healthcare System (VAPHS) about potential opportunities to work together. Service members identified by a military health provider for a potential TBI are

referred to VAPHS for further evaluation. If the service member is determined to have sustained a TBI they are offered the opportunity to enroll in a program to address TBI related issues. Once the service member reaches specified program goals, rehabilitation activities through the program are concluded. A potential area of collaboration is seen in having TBI recognized as a chronic condition.

- The Hawaii Neurotrauma Registry contract with the University of Hawaii is still being worked on. There have been delays related to staffing and competing priorities. Lastly, NTP staff shared financial data for the past and projected revenue and expenditures.

Category	FY 2022 (Actual)	FY 2023 (Actual)	FY 2024 (Actual)	FY 2025 (Actual)	FY 2026 (Estimated)	FY 2027 (Estimated)	FY 2028 (Estimated)
Appropriation Ceiling	\$1,074,994	\$1,074,994	\$1,043,209	\$1,055,594	\$1,055,594	\$1,055,594	\$1,055,594
Beginning Cash Balance	\$723,698	\$590,671	\$645,149	\$934,086	\$1,164,599	\$879,599	\$559,599
Revenues	\$515,100	\$462,802	\$435,074	\$396,811	\$450,000	\$415,000	\$415,000
Expenditures	\$648,127	\$408,324	\$146,137	\$166,298	\$735,000	\$735,000	\$735,000

B. University of Hawai'i College of Education – BrainSpace contract

- HCAMP presented on the BrainSpace Project, an online concussion education curriculum. The project has been updated to address both high school and youth leagues with the intention of targeting coaches, parents, athletes, and officials. 'Ōlelo has completed the seven videos that they have been working on for about a year. The first video that everyone will see contains general concussion information. The six other videos are specific to whether the viewer is a coach, parent, athlete, or official. 'Ōlelo is currently working on the rebuilding and coding of the platform for the online launch

with an anticipated release in mid-March. The platform will have a section that has pre and post-tests to measure knowledge gain. HCAMP staff quizzed board members on four sample test questions from the new curriculum. Seven board members participated in the poll of the sample test questions and as a group scored an overall average of 95%.

- A member asked about the statistics on concussion in different sports. HCAMP reported that girls' judo has the highest concussion risk in Hawaii and is followed by football, girls' soccer, and cheerleading. Another member asked about medical clearance requirements for concussions. HCAMP responded that there is a law by licensed healthcare providers that the physician must be trained in managing sports-related concussions.

## **V. New Business**

- Queen's Medical Center (QMC) Trauma delivered a comprehensive presentation on e-bike safety explaining the three different classes and specifications of e-bikes (Class 1, 2, and 3). The Hawaii state law regarding the age requirement to legally operate an e-bike is 15 years old. Helmet usage is required for anyone under 18 years old on O'ahu and under 16 years old outside of Honolulu County. QMC (Trauma) presented data on e-bike injuries and noted an increase in emergency department visits. Some challenges to e-bike safety are state legislation, infrastructure, enforcement, and education. Additionally, the lithium batteries used to power e-bikes have shown to be a fire risk. Board members mentioned nearly being hit by an e-bike while on the sidewalk and one suggested education promoting the use of bells on bikes to improve pedestrian safety. QMC (Trauma)

acknowledged the need for sidewalk safety and added that during kupuna Matter of Balance classes there has been a reoccurring topic of almost being run over by an e-bike while on the sidewalk. Another member asked if e-bike violations fees go to the Neurotrauman Special Fund (NSF). The NTP staff reported that the violation fees do not go to the NSF. Members suggested proposing an amendment to request a portion of e-bike violation payments to be deposited to the NSF.

## VI. Open Forum

### A. Neurotrauma news and announcements from across the state.

- Neurotrauma Program announced the completion of a new section on the NTP website that covers Surfer's Myelopathy. A girl scout working on her Silver Award requested her Surfer's Myelopathy project be shared on the NTP website. The page is now live under the spinal cord injury section of the NTP website. <https://health.hawaii.gov/nt/spinal-cord-injury/surfers-myelopathy/>
- NTP also shared a letter from Department of Education's (DOE) superintendent, Keith Hayashi, on DOE's new policy regarding e-bikes. E-bikes are not allowed on elementary and middle school campuses while high schools have specific restrictions.
- Brain Injury Association of Hawaii, (BIHi) is planning an educational and resource fair in Hilo for Fall 2026. Everyone is invited to attend and provide input at a fair planning meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, from 1 PM to 2 PM.

B. Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting. No comments for consideration.

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

- Date: April 23, 2026
- Time: 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
- Location: Diamond Head Health Center and Zoom

### **2026 NTAB Meeting Dates**

February 26, April 23, June 25, August 20, October 22, December 10

Meeting Adjourned at 2:50pm

DRAFT