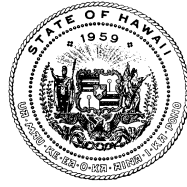


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAI'I  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I



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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## NEUROTRAUMA ADVISORY BOARD (NTAB)

### MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2026

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

Absent: William Rodrigues, TJ Donayri

Others: Troy Furutani, UH HCAMP; Jamie Higa, UH HCAMP; Violet Horvath, Pacific Disabilities Center; Tani Salazar, Executive Office on Aging; Angie Enoka, Survivor/BI

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

- I. **Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 1:33 pm by NTAB board member, Dr. Kent Yamamoto - Quorum was established.
- II. **Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted** - No public or written testimonies submitted
- III. **Approval of Minutes from February 26, 2026** - Board member, BJ Wade, motioned to accept the minutes with no changes or edits. Board member, Stella Wong, 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 6, Nays 0, Abstentions 0

#### **IV. Old Business**

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

- Neurotrauma Program, (NTP) staff reporting on activities for the Partner Agency Workgroup (PAW) reported attending the Kupuna Collective meeting after a PAW interview with Tani Salazar, from Executive Office on Aging. At the meeting, NTP staff learned about and networked with numerous community organizations including Kaua'i Community Health Center, Waikiki Community Center, Hui o Hau'ula Kupuna Supportive Navigator Program, UH Manoa Center on Aging, and Malama Village. Valuable resources such as "My Mobility Plan" and "Mini COH", a cognitive assessment tool for caregivers were shared. Tani Salazar thanked DOH for attending the Kupuna Collective meeting. Board member, Scott Sagum, shared that he is board president for the Kaua'i Community Health Center. In an effort to continue identifying potential partners with whom to collaborate, PAW will need to prioritize agencies to interview rather than attempting to interview all listed agencies. Another member of PAW acknowledged it's a task but questioned whether selecting only a few would provide needed answers.
  
- In March, NTP staff represented Hawai'i at the Brain Injury Collaborative Summit. The summit was organized by the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), North American Brain Injury Society (NABIS), and National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA). While

at the summit, NTP staff met brain injury professionals, survivors, and caregivers from multiple states. BIAA used a brain injury tip sheet to encourage attendees to connect and share their brain injury experience with one another. Conference exhibitors included inpatient rehab services, innovative technologies, guided travel services for people with disabilities, and a children's book explaining brain injury.

- March 12<sup>th</sup> was Day at the Capitol, where brain injury advocates are scheduled to visit with congressional representatives of their own state to request support for the TBI Reauthorization Act. NTP staff along with Brain Injury of Hawai'i (BIHi) members, Sienna and her mother Gail, were accompanied by a New York advocate to navigate the Capitol. The Hawai'i delegation met with staff from the offices of Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Jill Tokuda and Ed Case, sharing stories and information about brain injury. NTP and BIHi are currently working to arrange a time when the representatives are home on break from Congressional duties, to meet with Hawai'i's brain injury community so they can hear about work being done in Hawai'i to prevent and treat brain injury and learn how they can support our efforts.
- At the invitation of NASHIA, Dr. Corrigan did a presentation advocating for TBI to be recognized as a chronic condition. He highlighted the fact that 18.2% of U.S. adults live with a TBI and yet it is not recognized as a chronic condition. However, spinal cord injury at a rate of 0.1% and multiple sclerosis at 0.2% are recognized as chronic conditions. Part of the difficulty in having TBI recognized as a chronic condition is in how TBI is defined.

National and international organizations such as the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Center for Medicaid, all have different definitions for what symptoms and circumstances must exist for an injury to qualify as a TBI. A board member commented on TBI being an invisible disability and the federal government's insufficient budgeting for psychologists, psychiatrists, and neurologists to help veterans who sustained a head injury during their time in the service.

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

- HCAMP presented on the website launch of the BrainSpace concussion education curriculum. This curriculum can be found at: <https://hawaiiiconcussion.com/>. On the website, there are three categories, High School, Middle School, and Youth Leagues. Each category lists modules for athletes, coaches, parents, and officials. Curriculum under the High School and Middle School categories are basically the same since athletic trainers (AT) by law are required to be present for all games. Youth Leagues are not required to have an AT on the field for each game. The Youth League curriculum is tailored to address the lack of resources and medical professionals at these games. Content for each module is customized to an individual's role as it relates to the athlete. The athlete module emphasizes taking concussions seriously and caring for teammates while the coach's module focuses on recognition of concussion symptoms and post-concussion protocol. The parent module covers home care/management and school notification while the official's module emphasizes their role as observers who can decide when it is appropriate to

remove an athlete from play. Since the launch of BrainSpace, HCAMP has encountered some bugs in the program and are in the process of fixing them. They are also looking to simplify access to the modules by reducing button clicks and having users identify their category. Board members are encouraged to test out the curriculum and email HCAMP with any questions or issues.

- HCAMP recently worked with the Kaua'i youth football team on concussion, heat, emergency action plans, and age-appropriate strength and conditioning. HCAMP is looking to conduct in-person education on all islands on an annual basis.
- On the same web page as BrainSpace, is a curriculum for educators to identify and support students who have or may have sustained a concussion. The educator curriculum addresses allowances by the 504 plan for educational interventions and accommodations such as preferential seating and extended test taking time for students with disabilities.

**V. New Business** None

**VI. Open Forum**

A. Neurotrauma news and announcements from across the state.

- Maintaining compliance with the Sunshine Law, no other items were listed on the agenda, and subsequently there were no further neurotrauma announcements or discussions.

B. Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

- Board members requested more information on the Sunshine Law as it pertains to conducting board business.

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

- Date: June 25, 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 1:10pm

DRAFT