



Proclamation

WHEREAS, brain injuries are unpredictable, and the effects are complex, varying greatly from person to person; and

WHEREAS, from 2017 to 2019, an estimated 12,000 individuals visited Hawai'i emergency departments for a head injury with over 1,600 cases resulting in a hospital stay and over 200 deaths; and

WHEREAS, each year, there are approximately 5,000 traumatic brain injuries (TBI) in Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, TBI stems from a multitude of causes including accidents, motor vehicle crashes, violence, stroke, and other medical reasons or trauma; and

WHEREAS, many American soldiers have suffered from TBI resulting in higher rates of PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), depression, anxiety, chronic pain, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, TBI survivors may remain disabled and many more will remain undiagnosed and untreated due to lack of medical resources, funding, and awareness; and

WHEREAS, increased public awareness will greatly improve the critical understanding, prevention, and treatment of brain injuries; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Department of Health Neurotrauma Program works to build a better system to support survivors and families of stroke, spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury here in our communities by providing education on neurotrauma and assistance and access to services and support;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the **State of Hawai'i**, do hereby proclaim March 2021 as

“BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH”

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in bringing focus to the life changing effects of brain injuries and encourage the community to reach out to the Hawai'i State Department of Health Neurotrauma Program for resources and information on how to prevent and live with a brain injury.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twelfth day of January 2021.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i