



Proclamation

WHEREAS, April 2021 marks the 20th anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), part of a movement to prevent sexual assault, harassment and abuse and end sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence is widespread and impacts all of society despite gender identity, sexual orientation, race or socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence can occur in person, online, or through social media, such as posting or sharing sexual pictures or non-consensual sexting; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 crisis has dramatically altered our daily routines and increased the potential for sexual violence, particularly for children who are spending an unprecedented amount of time on the internet and may encounter high-risk situations; and

WHEREAS, the negative, traumatic impact of sexual violence on children, adults and LGBTQ+ communities include fear, concern for safety, symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, injury, and missed work or school; and

WHEREAS, in Hawai'i, nearly 1,900 adults and children received specialized services from sexual assault centers and over 2,500 calls were made to the hotline last year; and

WHEREAS, the prevention of sexual violence requires education and a community response with acts of aloha, kindness and connection with one another—in our neighborhoods, in our workplaces, in our schools, in our places of worship, and in our homes;

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

“SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH”

in Hawai'i and ask citizens of the Aloha State to join me in working together to end sexual violence; support survivors by letting them know that there are treatment services, safe spaces and help available; speak out against harmful attitudes and actions; and promote accountability and zero tolerance for any form of violence to create a safer world for all.

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



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i