

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

Proclamation

WHEREAS, since 1947 the month of May has been recognized as “**Mental Health Month**”, to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and its impact on the well-being of all Americans, and to encourage those who need help to seek it; and

WHEREAS our mental wellness is just as important as our physical health – and includes our emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing and affects how we feel, act, think, behave, make decisions, and handle stress; and

WHEREAS the importance of attending to our health has become even more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has not only negatively impacted many people’s mental health, but has also created barriers to treatment; and

WHEREAS community mental health organizations, including Hawai'i CARES, State of Hawai'i Adult Mental Health Division, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and Suicide Prevention Resource Centers, provide information, resources, advocacy, and education to improve the quality of life of individuals and families affected by mental illness; and

WHEREAS, here on Hawai'i Island, through the State of Hawai'i Department of Health, **The Clubhouses**, Hale 'Oluea in Hilo and Kona Paradise Club, are unique, voluntary, member-driven psychosocial rehabilitation programs for adults who experience the challenge of mental illness and are committed to ending the negative stigma surrounding mental illness by providing education to the public and opportunities for their members.

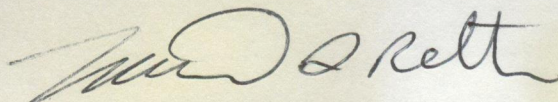
WHEREAS together we can realize our shared vision of a society where anyone affected by mental illness can get the appropriate support and quality of care to live healthy, fulfilling lives.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MITCHELL D. ROTH, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **May 2022** as

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

in the County of Hawai'i and encourage our citizens to recognize the dedicated mental health providers whose service and support improve the lives of so many, as we stand in solidarity with those who are experiencing mental health challenges, renewing our commitment to providing the support they need and deserve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused The Seal of the County of Hawai'i to be affixed. Done this 26th day of May 2022, in Hilo, Hawai'i.



MITCHELL D. ROTH
MAYOR