

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

Proclamation

WHEREAS suicide is one of the most tragic events a family and community can experience, and among the top 9 leading causes of death for people ages 10-64 in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, in the State of Hawai'i there were 979 documented suicide deaths among state residents between 2017 and 2021. Hawai'i Island averages 38 suicide deaths and 113 hospitalized suicide attempts each year; and

WHEREAS, in the State of Hawai'i, more than 80% of those who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition and only 34% of these victims were receiving treatment at the time of their death; and

WHEREAS the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidal behavior can be eliminated through public awareness and education; and

WHEREAS the Hawai'i Island Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Task Force is committed to suicide prevention and intervention by partnering with government agencies, private companies, non-profit organizations, community groups and individuals working collaboratively to provide leadership, develop strategies and training programs aimed at youth, adults, and emergency responders, coordinate activities, and monitor progress of suicide prevention efforts in the State of Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS Hawai'i's multi-pronged suicide prevention strategy includes educating the public about resources for individuals at risk; training professionals and community members on how to identify, support and refer individuals at risk; and implementing policies that institutionalize suicide prevention training in clinical and school settings; and

WHEREAS Hawai'i Island is working to expand hope, help and healing across the State to protect our 'ohana.

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

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to help raise awareness of local and national mental health and suicide prevention resources available to our communities and encourage all those in need to seek the care and treatment necessary for a long and healthy life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused The Seal of the County of Hawai'i to be affixed. Done this 1st day of September 2022, in Hilo, Hawai'i.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell D. Roth".

MITCHELL D. ROTH
MAYOR