



E haalake mai

Office of the Mayor
County of Kaua'i

Proclamation

Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2021

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious, widespread and hidden societal problem that affects 10 million adults in the United States each year, regardless of race, age, and income. Abuse can have long-term damaging effects on the health and well-being of victims and their families, friends, and communities, and additionally, children who witness and are often targeted in domestic violence become socialized into believing violence and abuse is normal, are at greater risk of perpetuating the cycle of violence. Rural areas in the County of Kaua'i create geographically-related challenges for victims seeking help to leave their abusive environments; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) has advocated for victims and survivors of domestic violence for over 35 years in partnership with its members to create a safer and more peaceful state for Hawai'i families. HSCADV is comprised of 26 programs representing 15 organizations from all islands that serve over 2,000 victims of domestic violence each year: Catholic Charities of Hawai'i, Children and Family Service, Domestic Violence Action Center, Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Lokahi Treatment Centers, Neighborhood Place of Kona, Parents and Children Together, University of Hawai'i PAU Violence, Salvation Army, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney's Victim/Witness Koku Service, Women Helping Women, YMCA of Hawai'i Island, YWCA of Kaua'i, Children's Law Project of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Rise Foundation, and Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides a coordinated community effort for citizens to learn about preventing domestic violence and to support the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and assistance to victims. This year's Domestic Violence Awareness Month brings into focus how COVID-19 has continuously exacerbated the barriers to accessing health and safety for victims and their families in addition to addressing common myths that perpetuate a culture of violence. Domestic violence cannot be tolerated or accepted and must be stopped; and

WHEREAS, HSCADV invites the community to take a stand against violence that is a public health issue rather than a private matter. The goal is to raise awareness of this problem, rally support, and encourage action from every sector of our community that centers on victims and survivors, and recognize the incredible contributions of diverse community stakeholders committed to ending domestic violence. The voices and lived experiences of survivors, the persistence and dedication of advocates, and the solidarity shown from supporters in the community are to be commended, and the work to end domestic violence throughout the state and nation must continue.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim October 2021, as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month," and urge the citizens of Kaua'i to end violence in our homes, community, and our country.



County of Kaua'i
State of Hawai'i
October 2021

Derek S. K. Kawakami
Mayor, County of Kaua'i
State of Hawai'i



Hookani ka pahu