

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

Proclamation

WHEREAS the persistent issues of child abuse and neglect continue to pose complex challenges within our society, impacting many children in the County of Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, our children are vital to our state's future success, prosperity, and quality of life, as well as being the most vulnerable members of society; and

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the community to protect and mālama a child's inherent right to a safe and nurturing childhood. Every child is entitled to be treated with aloha, receiving love, care and nurturing to foster a sense of security, and to be protected against verbal, sexual, emotional, and physical abuse, and neglect; and

WHEREAS communities that provide social support, parenting skills, an understanding of child development and available resources to cope with stress, contribute significantly to ensuring that children reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS effective strategies for preventing child abuse and neglect succeed through partnerships formed among citizens, human services agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

WHEREAS dedicated individuals and organizations within the County of Hawai'i, including the Aloha Exchange Club of East Hawai'i, have partnered with the East Hawai'i Coalition to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect (EHCAN) to respond proactively to the issues of child abuse and neglect by increasing community awareness, sustaining prevention programs, and implementing educational programs and activities to strengthen families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mitchell D. Roth, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2024, as

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH

in the County of Hawai'i and encourage all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, and businesses to heighten their involvement in our collective efforts to support our Hawai'i Island families, prevent child abuse and neglect, and strengthen the communities in which we live.

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 April 2024, in Hilo, Hawai'i.



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

MITCHELL D. ROTH
MAYOR