



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, January 2024 marks the 14th anniversary of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, providing us with an opportunity to connect, prevent human trafficking, and support victim/survivors in their quest for justice; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that human trafficking is widespread and exists in many forms including labor trafficking, sex trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation of children, and impacts everyone in our community regardless of age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, socio-economic status, or disability; and

**WHEREAS**, victims/survivors are often at risk of substance abuse, economic and housing crisis, long and short term mental and physical health issues, and continued physical and sexual violence from exploiters; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the importance of a coordinated, victim-centered approach in identifying and recovering victims, prioritizing offender accountability through evidence-based investigations and prosecutions in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, as the Honolulu County Human Trafficking Task Force (HCHTTF) was formed in May 2019, by the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu, in partnership with Susannah Wesley Community Center, Honolulu Police Department, Department of the Attorney General, United States Attorney's Office, Homeland Security Investigations, and Chaminade University; with continued support from Army Criminal Investigations Division, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Community After Exploitation – Hawai'i, Children's Justice Center, Department of Human Services – Child Welfare Services, U.S. Department of Labor, Hawai'i Girl's Court, Ho'ōla Nā Pua, Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Missing Child Center Hawai'i, Naval Criminal Investigations Division, Pacific Survivor Center, Sex Abuse Treatment Center, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

**WHEREAS**, The HCHTTF is committed to combating human trafficking through a coordinated, trauma-informed approach, providing comprehensive services to all victims/survivors, and raising awareness to support the most vulnerable members of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, recognized both nationally and locally as Human Trafficking Awareness Month, January prompts the City and County of Honolulu to come together in a concerted effort to heighten awareness of human trafficking,

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK BLANGIARDI**, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, do hereby proclaim January 2024, to be

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

to collaborate in efforts to eradicate labor and sex trafficking, provide survivors with treatment, safe spaces, and victim advocacy, support law enforcement in ensuring offender accountability and public safety, and promote the elimination of all trafficking forms through awareness and education.



Done this 1st day of January, 2024,  
in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

*Rick Blangiardi*

RICK BLANGIARDI