



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

CLARE E. CONNORS  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release  
March 27, 2019

News Release 2019-12

### **Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Hawaii**

Honolulu – April 1, 2019 is the start of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in Hawaii. The Department of the Attorney General, Department of Health, and the Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault are partnering to raise public awareness about sexual violence and support initiatives that work to prevent sexual violence in our communities. Hawaii's effort is part of a nationwide campaign.

This year's SAAM theme, *"I Ask*, encourages and empowers everyone, no matter the scenario, to ask for consent, listen, and accept answers without pressuring or coercing another."

On April 12, 2019, Governor Ige officially will proclaim April 2019 "Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Hawaii" and recognize 14 community members and organizations who are making a difference in Hawaii by encouraging healthy relationships, teaching youth about consent, and how power dynamics impact consent. These include: Barbie-Lei Burgess, Wai'anae Neighborhood Place; Jan Fukuda and Ke'alapualoke Fukuda, Hawai'i State Department of Education; Lorrie Kanno and Officer Anson "Kaipo" Paiva, Weed and Seed Program Hawai'i; Gina Kaulukukui, Kaua'i Police Department; Cathy Kapua, Kua'ana Project; Cyril Lopez, Jr. and Jennifer Makuakane, Ka'u Middle and High School; David Matlin and Nick Rolovich, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Athletics; Captain Romuel "Roy" Nafarrete, U.S. Navy, PACFLT SAPRO; Gregg T. Waki, Waiakea High School; and the Maui Sexual Assault First Responders.

"Sexual violence has no place in our communities," said Attorney General Clare E. Connors. "I commend every effort to raise awareness of the problem and I am encouraged that so many are promoting the value and importance of healthy human relationships."

According to the 2015 and 2017 Hawai'i Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1 in 12 high school students (8.5%) who dated or went out with someone in the previous 12 months experienced sexual dating violence. Anyone can experience sexual violence, including children, teens, adults, and seniors. We encourage everyone to stand against all forms of sexual violence by attending a local SAAM proclamation during the month of April:

**Kauai Mayor's SAAM Proclamation/Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month**

Monday, April 1, 2019, 1:00 p.m.  
*Kauai County Office Building Rotunda*

**Maui Mayor's SAAM Proclamation**

Monday, April 8, 2019, 10:00 a.m.  
*University of Hawaii Maui College*

**Honolulu Mayor SAAM Proclamation and City Council Certificate Ceremony**

Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 1:00 p.m.  
*Honolulu Hale, City Council Chamber (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)*

###

For more information, contact:

Krishna F. Jayaram  
Special Assistant to the Attorney General  
Department of the Attorney General  
(808) 586-1284  
krishna.f.jayaram@hawaii.gov

Janice Okubo, Public Information Officer  
Department of Health  
(808) 586-4442  
Janice.Okubo@doh.hawaii.gov

Joanne Higashi, Sexual Violence Prevention Program Coordinator  
Family Health Services Division, Maternal and Child Health Branch  
Department of Health  
(808) 733-4182  
Joanne.Higashi@doh.hawaii.gov

Paula Chun, Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
(808) 551-9976  
catalst@aloha.net