



Brain Injury  
Association  
Of Hawaii

Aug 2024 Vol 7

## GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN THE TBI COMMUNITY

Brain Injury Association of Hawaii  
Board of Directors

Dorothy Aliilua President

Kent Yamamoto, MD Vice President

Billie "BJ" Wade Executive Director

Allana Coffee, Ph.D.

Rose Evelyn Friedheim, Psy.D.

Violet E. Horvath, Ph.D.

Paige Onishi

Sienna Byrne

~~~~~

1221 Kapiolani Blvd, PH50 Honolulu,  
Hawaii. 96814  
braininjuryofhawaii@gmail.com  
<https://biausa.org/findbia/hawaii>

808-633-8144 via voicemail  
808-221-8330 via text/voice

July and August have been productive months for the brain injury survivor community -- both nationally and locally.

-- First, the Center for Disease and Control finally included TBIs as a chronic disease;

-- Second, the TBI Re-Enactment Act has moved out of Committee and is now waiting to be introduced to the Senate floor; and

-- Third, the military has mandated actions to protect our troops who experience an inordinate rate of suicides and traumatic brain injuries.

There is a lot of information in this issue so read on and be informed.

Have a safe and productive Summer,

-- Billie "BJ" Wade

## THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AS A CHRONIC CONDITION

Research has shown chronic long term effects for those who sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI). The effects include fatigue, memory loss, mobility issues, sensitivity to noise, migraines, and trouble with focus. Until recently, a TBI has been labeled as an acute condition. This labeling has made it difficult for TBI survivors to obtain much of the medical assistance needed because their injury was not assumed to be chronic.

The Center for Medical and Medicaid (CMS) has now added TBI to its list of chronic conditions for chronic special needs plans (C-SNPs) through its Medicare Advantage program effective for the January 2025 plan year.

~~~~~

“We are thrilled that CMS agrees with our stance that brain injury is a chronic health condition, and has provided official recognition,” said Rick Willis, President and CEO of the Brain Injury Association of America. “This is an important first step in our fight to expand coverage for brain injury beyond acute care and helps us to make our case that brain injury should be treated by healthcare providers as a chronic condition like heart disease or diabetes.”

“When we talk about recognizing, treating, and covering brain injury as a chronic condition, that last piece of it is making sure there are resources there to continue providing support once a person with a brain injury leaves the acute care setting,” said Page Melton Ivie, Chair of the BIAA Board of Directors. “There is a lot of support in the hospital, but once you walk out the door, you’re on your own. We need to make sure we are continuing to support survivors and their families, because they are going to have a lot of needs that won’t be covered.”

The above excerpt is from the Brain Injury Association of America website. Visit the website for more information regarding brain injuries

<https://www.biausa.org/public-affairs/public-awareness/news>

## THE TBI REAUTHORIZATION ACT PASSES OUT OF COMMITTEE

On Wednesday, July 31, 2024, the Traumatic Brain Injury Program Reauthorization Act was passed on a strong bipartisan vote out of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee in the U.S. Senate. Thanks to Senator Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) and Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) for leading the effort.

In 2020 Senator Mullin's 15 year old son suffered a traumatic brain injury while wrestling. In his remarks to the Committee, Senator Mullin shared his personal relationship to brain injury and the importance of the TBI act.



Oklahoma Senator Markwayne Mullin giving a moving account of his son's injury

The TBI Act is essential in providing services to brain injury survivors across the country. It will ensure millions of Americans with TBI's and those suffering from long term disabilities because of a brain injury have the support and resources needed for recovery. At least 2.5 million Americans sustain a TBI each year. However with the recent recognition from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that a TBI can be chronic, the number of Americans suffering from a TBI increases to millions upon millions of individuals.

The bill now waits to be brought before the Senate for a vote.

## PROTECTING OUR SERVICE MEMBERS

The US Department of Defense has announced it is taking steps to protect the brain health of our military troops. It will mandate baseline cognitive tests for all new recruits. The baseline tests will make it easier to diagnose traumatic brain injuries that may occur later. Active duty troops will also receive baseline testing. Currently, baseline cognitive testing is given to troops ahead of a deployment. That approach does not detect injuries from training.

Training instructors will also be mandated to stand further away weapons blasts during training. Researchers agree that repeated exposure can impact a person's brain health and cognitive performance. According to Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks, "Blast overpressure is one of many factors that can negatively affect war fighter brain health."

The Pentagon plan comes nine months after United States Army Reservist Robert Card went on a shooting spree killing eighteen people and injuring 13 more in Maine in May 2023. A post-mortem study of Mr. Card's brain found that he "likely" had suffered a traumatic brain injury. Mr. Card was a long-time instructor at an Army hand grenade training range. According to doctors at Boston University Concussion Legacy Foundation, it is believed that he was exposed to thousands of low-level blasts.

The decision is also made on the heels of increased pressure from lawmakers to do more to protect brain injuries.



For more information see:

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/08/12/troops-will-undergo-brain-health-tests-part-of-new-pentagon-policies-blast-exposure.html>

## BIHi DIRECTORS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

One mission of the Brain Injury Association of Hawaii (BIHi) is to promote awareness regarding brain injury prevention. One of the ways BIHi does this is by participating in various community based health fairs and events that promote safety information to the public. National Night Out (NNO) is an annual event occurring on the first Tuesday in August in Hawaii. NNO is a community building campaign to promote police-community partnerships and camaraderie to help make neighborhoods safer places to live.

Hawaii's NNO was held at Schofield Barracks in Wahiawa. There were information booths, a free child safety bike safety course, police and firefighter displays. BIHi Board Directors Dr. Violet Horvath and BJ Wade joined Michele Tong of the Department of Health Neurotrauma Program (Doh-NTP) and Lisa Dau, RN of Keiki Injury Prevention to promote information concerning keiki safety and to promote brain injury prevention and safety tips.



Violet Horvath, Ph.D.



Lisa Dau, RN and Michele Tong



Violet and BJ Wade with Keiki



For more information go to <https://health.hawaii.gov/nt/> and <https://kipchawaii.org/>

## BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

Listing Provided by the July 2024 Neurotrauma Newsletter  
Violet E Horvath, Ph.D., Director of Pacific Disabilities  
Center

John A. Burns School of Medicine - University of Hawaii at  
Manoa For More Information visit  
<https://pdc.jabsom.hawaii.edu/>

Support group title: Aloha Independent Living Hawaii Big Island Mixed Group Support Group

Format: In-person at various locations on Hawaii island

Dates: Third Thursday of every month

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm HST

Location: Varies

Additional information: Comprised of adults with various disabilities, the group meets for fellowship and peer support. For more information, please contact Karin Riedel at 808-333-2408.

Support group title: Aloha Independent Living Hawaii Kauai Lualaba Peer Support Group

Format: In-person on Kauai

Dates: Last Thursday of the month HST

Additional information: For times, location, and other information, contact Holly Pickens-Torres at 808-652-6092.

Support group title: Aloha Independent Living Hawaii Molokai Keiki Support Group

Format: In-person on Molokai

Dates: Every third Wednesday of the month

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm HST

Location: Home Pumehana, Conference Room #1

Additional information: Contact Luana Angliam at 808-866-3792.

Support group title: Aloha Independent Living Hawaii Molokai Youth Support Group

Format: In-person on Molokai

Dates: Every fourth Friday of the month

Time: 10:30 am – 11:30 am HST

Location: Home Pumehana, Conference Room #1

Additional information: Contact Luana Angliam at 808-866-3792.

Support group title: Aloha Independent Living Hawaii Molokai Non-Ambulatory Support Group

Format: In-person on Molokai

Dates: Every second Friday of the month

Time: 10:30 am – 11:30 am HST

Location: Home Pumehana, Conference Room #1

Additional information: Consumers have the opportunity to voice their opinions regarding issues they are facing within their community and how they will move forward to take action as a group. For more information, please contact Luana Angliam at 808-866-3792.

Support group title: Brain Injury Oahu Support Group (BIOSG)

Format: In-person on Oahu

Dates: Monthly on Saturdays. Remaining dates for 2024 are: June 29, July 27, August 31, September 28, October 26, November 30, December 28

Times: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon HST

Location: Catholic Charities Clarence TC Ching Campus, 1822 Keeaumoku Street, Meeting Room 3, Honolulu, HI but sometimes in other locations; check in advance

Additional information: Call or text BJ Wade at 808-221-8330.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BrainInjuryAssociationOfHawaii/>

Email: [braininjuryofhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:braininjuryofhawaii@gmail.com)

Support group title: Concussion Legacy Foundation (CLF) Zoom Support Groups

Format: Virtual

Dates:

- \_Post-Concussion Patients: 1st Tuesday of the month
- \_Post-Concussion Caregivers: 2nd Tuesday of the month
- \_Suspected Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) Caregivers – 3rd Tuesday of the month
- \_Suspected Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) Patients – 4th Tuesday of the month
- \_Concussed Moms – 1st Thursday of the month
- \_CLF Canada Patient Groups – Weekly Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (international attendees welcome)

Times: Provided when you register

Additional information: Registration is required. Visit <https://concussionfoundation.org/peer-support> for more information and to register. 1-on-1 Peer Support is also available, and they are looking for Peer Support Volunteers. There are Facebook Resources Groups. Information on these can be found at the link above (scroll down to view the information).

Support group title: Creative Arts Program

Format: In-person on Oahu

Cost: \$15 per session

Days: Available Tuesdays and Thursdays

Time: 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Location: REHAB Hospital of the Pacific, 226 North Kuakini Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

Additional information: For current and former REHAB inpatients and outpatients. Registration is required. Contact Melissa Mullen, Patient Experiences Manager, by email at [art@rehabhospital.org](mailto:art@rehabhospital.org) or by phone at 808-566-3741

Website: <https://www.rehabhospital.org/programs/creative-arts-program>

Support group title: C.A.N. (Crush Ableism Now) Lunch Club

Format: In-person on Oahu

Dates: TBA

Times: TBA

Location: University of Hawaii at Manoa campus

Additional information: Monthly social lunch meeting for the disabled, chronically ill and neurodivergent University of Hawaii community, and anyone who wants to learn more about disability solidarity. Bring your own lunch. Light pupus provided. Contact Dr. Daniela Bond-Smith at [db48@hawaii.edu](mailto:db48@hawaii.edu) or call 808-203-7191.

Optional registration: <https://go.hawaii.edu/gYk>

Support group title: Hui Malama Po'o Support Group

Format: In-person in Honolulu, HI

Dates: Third Saturday of each month

Times: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm HST

Location: REHAB Hospital of the Pacific, 226 N. Kuakini Street, Honolulu, HI 96817, Wo 4

Additional information: The Hui Malama Po'o support group objectives are to use crafting as cognitive therapy, provide support to people with brain and other neurotrauma injuries, educate others about neurotrauma through community outreach, give back to the community through Hui activities and events, and offer its products to sustain the group by collecting enough funds to purchase materials for crafting activities. For more information, contact Val Yamada at 808-385-5462.

Support group title: Kona Brain Injury Support Group

Format: Hybrid – In-person in Kona, HI, and online via Zoom

Dates: Second Wednesday of each month

Time: Varies to accommodate speakers or for other reasons, so always check the start time

To join the meeting online: Go to Zoom at [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com). In the upper right-hand corner, click "Join Meeting" and enter Meeting ID 808 274 6477. You will be placed in the virtual waiting room and the host will let you into the meeting.

To join the meeting in person: The meeting location is Anderson Wealth Planning, 75-1000 Henry Street, Suite 200. (In the same building as Planet Fitness.)

Additional information: Contact Karen Klemme at [kklemme@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kklemme@hawaii.rr.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2671644676391469>

Support group title: Think Big! Support Group

Format: Hybrid - In-person on Kauai and virtual

Dates: Third Monday of each month

Times: 10:00 - 12:00pm

Location: Kauai District Health Office Conf Room, 3040 mi Street, Lihue, HI. 96766

Zoom Information: TBA

For more information: Steph Edwards at [kauaibig@gmail.com](mailto:kauaibig@gmail.com)





**KONA BRAIN INJURY  
SUPPORT GROUP**  
AUGUST 14, 2024

**Speaker:** Dr. Roswitha Shanahan Psy.D.

**Time:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 4:00 pm HST. (This is the 2nd Wednesday based on the speaker's availability.)

**Title:** EMDR therapy (Eye movement desensitization and reprocessing)

**Description:** EMDR therapy is a type of therapy that helps people who have experienced traumatic events. The idea behind EMDR therapy is that traumatic experiences can get "stuck" in the brain, causing distress and making it hard to live a normal life. The goal of EMDR therapy is to help the client process the traumatic memory in a healthier way.

**Also Join via Zoom Meeting [WWW.Zoom.com](http://WWW.Zoom.com). Meeting ID: 808 274 6477.**

**Invited are all brain injury, stroke or other neuro-trauma survivors, their families and caregivers, interested professionals and the public. If you have any questions about the support group meeting, you may contact Karen Klemme at 808-896-2962 (text), or email: [kklemme@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kklemme@hawaii.rr.com).**

**WE ARE ALSO MEETING IN PERSON, ALONG WITH ZOOM, AT ANDERSON WEALTH PLANNING IN KAILUA-KONA. ADDRESS: 75-1000 HENRY ST., SUITE 200 (SAME BUILDING AS PLANET FITNESS)**

*Kauai*  
**BRAIN  
INJURY  
GROUP**

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS AND FAMILIES  
OF ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

**3RD MONDAY EVERY MONTH  
10AM-NOON  
KAUAI DHO CONFERENCE ROOM  
3040 UMI ST, LIHUE  
IN PERSON + ON ZOOM**

[KAUAIBIG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KAUAIBIG@GMAIL.COM)

f  @kauaibig



# STROKE SUPPORT GROUP HOLDING IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETINGS IN ALTERNATING MONTHS



THE QUEEN'S  
HEALTH SYSTEM

## STROKE SURVIVOR

Free stroke support group throughout Hawai'i.



**Learn how to thrive after surviving a stroke. Meetings include:**

- Open dialogue with other survivors and trained professionals
- Monthly topics to assist with your recovery
- Guest speaker(s)

**Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month from 10-11:30 am:**

Virtual Schedule

January 10

March 13

May 8

July 10

September 11

November 13

In-Person Schedule

February 14

April 10

June 12

August 14

October 9

December 11

**To join us at our monthly support group, please register (required):**

Online

[www.queens.org/events](http://www.queens.org/events)

By Phone

808-691-7117 (referral line)

An email invitation will be sent to you a few days prior to the meeting.

---

This service is provided by The Queen's Medical Center Neuroscience Institute. If you have questions, contact Danae Jones, RN, Stroke Coordinator at 808-691-1210.

**BRAIN INJURY OAHU SUPPORT GROUP  
POTLUCK IN THE PARK  
AT KEEHI LAGOON. 465 Keehi Lagoon Drive, Hon, Hi  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2024  
10AM - 12 NOON**



**JOIN US AT THE PARK**



**Contact BJ Wade at 808-221-8330 for more details**

## ***I SEE YOU ~ I HEAR YOU PROGRAM***

### **THE HONOLULU PSYCHOLOGY COLLECTIVE CONTINUES TO OFFER TALK STORY SESSIONS FOR BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP MEMBERS. THE SESSIONS ARE OFFERED AT NO COST TO MEMBERS**

The Honolulu Psychology Collective is a private group therapy practice founded by Brain Injury Association of Hawaii Board member Allana Coffee, Ph.D. and her husband Jerry Coffee, LCSW. Both Allana and Jerry have been in practice for a total of 40 years. They have combined their experience, knowledge and love of the community to establish and support the Honolulu Psychology Collective (HPC).

HPC is comprised of clinical psychologists, clinical social workers and licensed marriage and family counselors who have a high level of experience, knowledge and compassion.

Honolulu Psychology Collective offers evidence based therapy with warmth and care.



Allana Coffee, Ph.D. and Jerry Coffee, LCSW  
*HPC Founders*

**Brain Injury Awareness includes recognizing the need to address the mental health of brain injury survivors, their family and caretakers**

**If you are a member of the Brain Injury Association of Hawaii and a brain injury survivor or a family member or caretaker of a survivor -- go to**

**<https://honolulupsychologycollective.com/inquiry-form>**

**insert BIOSG or BIHi (in the insurance box) someone will contact you**

SAVE THE DATE FOR OCTOBER 19, 2024 THIRD ANNUAL  
BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII FUNDRAISER

OCTOBER 19

THE BRAIN INJURY  
ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

(808)221-8330

Luncheon

is excited to invite you to a  
**lovely afternoon of fine  
dining, fashion, and  
inspiring speakers**

Saturday, October 19,

11:00 - 2:00 pm

The Pacific Club,

\$150

a benefit for brain injury  
survivors

[drcoffee@hpcollective.com](mailto:drcoffee@hpcollective.com).



Our keynote speaker  
**Sienna Byrne**

graduated from Princeton University where she was a Division 1 athlete. She sustained a brain injury when she was hit by a motorboat while she was crewing. Despite her considerable injuries, Sienna graduated with honors and recently placed 3rd runner-up at Miss Hawaii USA. Sienna is a passionate advocate for brain health safety and awareness.



Brain Injury  
Association  
Of Hawaii

# BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

## 2024 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

October 19, 2024 - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

The Pacific Club - 1451 Queen Emma Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

### TABLES:

#### Platinum SPONSORSHIP & TABLE FOR 8 GUESTS

- \$10,000 or more: Name / logo prominently displayed on all event materials and website. Recognition in our printed program, monthly newsletter, and at the Fundraiser event.

#### Gold SPONSORSHIP & TABLE FOR 8 GUESTS

- \$5,000 or more: Name / logo prominently displayed on all event materials and website. Recognition in our printed program, monthly newsletter, and at the Fundraiser event.

#### Sterling SPONSORSHIP & TABLE FOR 8 GUESTS

- \$3,500 or more: Name / logo prominently displayed on all event materials and website. Recognition in our printed program, monthly newsletter, and at the Fundraiser event.

#### PREMIER TABLE

- \$1,500 for a table for 8 people: Wine, name / logo displayed on table.

#### INDIVIDUAL SEATING

- \$150 Per individual seat

#### DONATIONS: CASH, GIFT CERTIFICATES, AND / OR SERVICES DONATIONS (all tax deductible)

Description of Donation(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Value Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name/Company or Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell or Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed payable to Brain Association of Hawaii

( ) Please Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the following credit card:

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Brain Injury Association of Hawaii  
Mail to: 1221 Kapiolani Boulevard - Penthouse 50 - Honolulu, Hawaii. 96814  
Contact: Billie "BJ" Wade at 808-221-8330 by text or voicemail  
Tax ID Number (EIN) 94-3275710

**MAHALO FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

Website: [biausa.org/findbia/hawaii](http://biausa.org/findbia/hawaii) - Facebook: [braininjuryassociationofhawaii](https://www.facebook.com/braininjuryassociationofhawaii)





MAHALO TO THE 2023 DONORS OF  
THE BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII  
WHOSE GENEROSITY MEANS EVERYTHING TO THE  
COMMUNITY WE SERVE

The Bennett Family  
Bickerton Law Group, LLP  
Allana Coffee, Ph.D.  
EMME , Inc.  
Honolulu Psychology Collective  
Hui Malama Advisors, LLC  
KapaMag  
Kent Yamamoto, MD  
Leavitt, Yamane & Soldner  
Leeward Pilot Group  
Little Caesars Pizza (John Brown)  
Peggy Murphy, Psy.D.  
Pilot Club of Honolulu  
PIOPAC Fidelity  
Rosenberg McKay Hoffman  
John W. Schmidtke, Jr, A Law Corporation