



Brain Injury Association Of Hawaii

Jan/Feb Vol 1



Brain Injury Association
of Hawaii (BIHi)
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## 2025 CHINESE YEAR OF THE WOOD SNAKE

2025 is the Chinese Lunar Year of the Snake. The snake represents wisdom, intuition, and transformation. It is often defined as a time of change and development.

The Executive Orders issued concerning Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and the freeze on federal funding of critical brain injury programs are fundamental changes in the social fabric. Federal funding for programs, agencies, health providers and related resources for brain injury survivors and their caregivers are at risk of being eliminated or greatly reduced.

The Brain Injury Association of America will continue to advocate for the greater access to care, expanded brain injury research, adequate resources for state programs, and increased congressional awareness of brain injury issues.

The Brain Injury Association of Hawaii (BIHi fka BIAH) will continue to partner with agencies and programs at community health fairs and events to share information concerning brain injury related resources and safety information.

It is essential that during this challenging year of the Snake, we remember to be kind, patient, and loving toward one another,

BJ Wade, Editor

## DEI TRIGGER WORDS

*The words listed below, if included in documents, may affect funding for brain injury survivors. BIAA and other corporations, agencies and businesses have refrained from removing the words at this time to ensure those who are most vulnerable in our communities continue to be protected with resources and services.*

Compiled this list from non-profits who received work stoppages: Terms explicit in Executive Orders:

DEI

DEIA

Diversity

Diverse

Equity

Equitable

Inclusion

Inclusive

Environmental Justice

Gender Identity

Terms with an explicit relationship to Executive Orders:

Racial

Marginalized

Underserved

Affirmatively

Affirmative

Systemic

Adversely

Accessible

Accessibility

Disparate

Energy Efficient



# My brain injury journey is...



[biausa.org/mybraininjuryjourney](http://biausa.org/mybraininjuryjourney)



## **IN CELEBRATION OF MARCH 2025 BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH**

As an exercise, the Brain Injury Association of America provided the following list of questions for survivors. The Brain Injury Association of Hawaii is asking that you pick one, two, three, or all the questions below and share your answers with a loved one, a caregiver, or anyone who will listen. If you send your name and your answers to the Brain Injury Association of Hawaii, we will publish it in our newsletter and on our Facebook page. Send responses to: [braininjuryofhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:braininjuryofhawaii@gmail.com).

### **THE QUESTIONS:**

- What have you learned from having a brain injury?
- What is your goal in life?
- What is the one thing you want strangers/new people to know about you?
- How do you influence or control the direction your life is going?
- Describe your best or worst day.
- What are you working on? (memory, exercise, craft, work skills, school, etc.)
- How do you know what to do each day when you wake up?
- Do you have a secret wish?

**HPN HAWAII PACIFIC NEUROSCIENCE**  
**Brain Research, Innovation & Translation Labs (BRITL)**  
**2025 Summer Internship Program (SIP)**  
2230 Liliha Street #104, HONOLULU, HI 96817



**June 14th-August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**(Deadline due March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025)**

**Online Information**

The Summer Research Program at Hawaii Pacific Neuroscience is one of the most sought-after neuroscience internships in the country. It provides students the opportunity to spend an intensive 2 months working side-by-side with leading neuroscientists and researchers on groundbreaking studies in Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, and other neurological diseases. This internship is a time-intensive commitment with mandatory lectures built into the program. The calendar does not include your time in the clinic and your time with your research group. Interns will need to be on-campus, in person for their data collection sessions (3 hours weekly time blocks) in addition to other in-person events. The program emphasizes collaborative teamwork in a supervised setting headed by faculty research mentors and experienced medical student leaders culminating in poster presentations competition for best research awards to be presented by Sam Shomaker, MD, Dean of John Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii. Most students followed up with submission to national meetings and PubMed papers.

[See 2024 Summer Program Students, Projects & Poster Competition](#)

**When: (Do not apply if you are unable to attend events in person)**

June 14th, 2025 – August 16th, 2025

**Who can apply?**

Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited college or university as an undergraduate or graduate student. A small cohort of individuals in their senior High School may be considered under "exceptional circumstances".

**Are there any application fees?**

There is a non-refundable application fee of \$49  
Click [online](#) to pay non-refundable application fees

**How to apply?** [Apply online](#) (Deadline March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

**Questions?** [Brittl@HawaiiNeuroscience.com](mailto:Brittl@HawaiiNeuroscience.com)



Summer Internship



Online Payment



## BRAIN INJURY OAHU SUPPORT GROUP GIFTS US WITH SMILING FACES AND CANVASES OF HEARTS

Allana Coffee, Ph.D. and Julian Coffee brought acrylic paints, canvases and brushes to the January support group meeting. The group responded with colorful canvases of hearts, hearts and more hearts



Members of the Brain Injury Oahu Support Group - January 2025

*The best and most beautiful things in the world  
cannot be seen or even touched, they must  
be felt with the heart - Helen Keller*



## BRAIN INJURY OAHU SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

February 22, 2025 - 10-12 noon

Catholic Charities Campus, 1822 Keeaumoku Street, Hon, Hi

Carmela Tafoya is a Certified Mindvybe Vagus Nerve Stimulation Technician. Carmela has a 36-year history as a personal trainer and parasympathic nervous system advocate. Carmela will give a presentation on Mindvybe, a technique to stimulate the vagus nerve through acupressure stimulation. Mindvybe is a general wellness product that purports to harness the pathways of the vagus nerve and leverages acupressure point on the earlobes to gently balance the mind and body.



HAWAII WORKFORCE PIPELINE

Preparing our Community for the Future

Students interested in a neuroscience career have expressed an interest in interviewing survivors of brain injuries. Members of the Brain Injury Oahu Support Group (BIOSG) have graciously invited students to attend their meetings and conduct interviews. BIOSG is in accord with the Hawaii Workforce Pipeline's commitment to bridge the gap between traditional education and careers that provide a sustainable, living wage or high income for Hawaii's students.

## **BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS**

Support group title: Aloha Independent Living Hawaii Big Island 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 can voice their opinions regarding issues they are facing within their community and how they will move forward to act 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 the last Saturday of each month.

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: Kona Brain Injury Support Group

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

Dates: Second Wednesday of each month

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: Kauai 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:

<https://zoom.us/j/94232380209?pwd=18s7OjQcAPFia0WlQkwQQqKAGaRLQC.1>,

Meeting ID 942 3238 0209,

Passcode: 833714

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

The above Support Group Listing Provided by the December 2024 Neurotrauma Newsletter

Violet E Horvath, Ph.D., Director of Pacific Disabilities Center

John A. Burns School of Medicine - University of Hawaii at Manoa

**Pacific Disabilities Center website:** <https://pdc.jabsom.hawaii.edu/>

**Pacific Disabilities Center YouTube**

**Channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/@PacificDisabilitiesCenter>

# MAHALO TO THE PILOT CLUB OF HONOLULU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION

Your support and the support of family and friends enables us to provide information regarding brain injury resources, prevention, and safety tips for our Hawaii community

