



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, two of the major public health epidemics in Hawaii and the nation are family violence and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI); and

**WHEREAS**, for those who survive, brain injury is a life-altering experience -- with serious physical impairments and a variety of cognitive, behavioral and emotional complications that include violent and aggressive behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, TBI is the most expensive of all disabilities, with an estimated cost of \$4-6 million for health care and social services over the lifetime of a severe injury survivor; and

**WHEREAS**, family violence victims seek health care eight times more frequently than non-violent families; and

**WHEREAS**, the head area is a primary target in violent attacks on women and children, resulting in cumulative TBI disabilities and fatalities for which there is no cure; and

**WHEREAS**, with prevention as a highly desired goal, it is essential to heighten public awareness of the consequences of brain injuries that can be induced by violent family relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to reduce the number of brain impairments caused by violence -- and to meet Hawaii's health objectives for the Year 2000 -- we must break the intergenerational cycle of child abuse and domestic violence;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO**, Governor of the State of Hawaii, do hereby proclaim October, 1998, to be

## **BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH**

in Hawaii, and urge our citizens to join with those in our community who are working to eliminate incidents of abuse that can lead to Traumatic Brain Injury.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawaii, this twenty-fourth day of June, 1998.