

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Hawaiʻi's coastlines are vulnerable to tsunami waves generated by major earthquakes located anywhere around the Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire," as well as from major earthquakes associated with Hawaiʻi's volcanoes; and

WHEREAS, 224 people were killed in Hawaiʻi by tsunamis in the 20th century alone, including disastrous tsunamis up to 50 feet high hitting Hawaiʻi in 1946 and 1960; and

WHEREAS, tsunamis have caused more loss of life in Hawaiʻi than all other local disasters combined; and

WHEREAS, the April 1, 1946 tsunami originated in the Aleutian Islands, crossed the Pacific at as much as 500 miles an hour, arriving less than five hours later and without warning on Hawaii's shores, killing 158 people and causing over \$337 million in damage; and

WHEREAS, that "April Fools' Day Tsunami" became the catalyst for concerted efforts that led to the establishment of the U.S. Tsunami Warning System in 1949, and the International Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific in 1965; and

WHEREAS, those systems serve to warn the public against dangerous and imminent tsunamis through the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center and mitigate the impacts of tsunamis through awareness and outreach by the International Tsunami Information Center in Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and immediate action to evacuate when people recognize the natural warning signs of locally generated tsunami can save lives, especially when the source of a destructive ocean wave is too close to allow for advance warning through sirens or other alert systems; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaiʻi Emergency Management Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, Hawaiʻi County Civil Defense Agency, Honolulu Department of Emergency Management, Maui Emergency Management Agency, Kauaʻi Emergency Management Agency, and local governments throughout Hawaiʻi regularly hold outreach events to raise awareness about the tsunami hazard and how the public can reduce their risk through preparedness;

THEREFORE I, Josh Green, M.D., Governor of the State of Hawaiʻi, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as

"TSUNAMI AWARENESS MONTH"

in Hawaiʻi and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in recognizing the importance of maintaining public awareness and statewide preparedness regarding the threat of tsunamis.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawaiʻi, this thirty-first day of March 2023.

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawaiʻi