



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, National Water Safety Month is an annual campaign dedicated to promoting water safety education, safer water habits and raising awareness about drowning prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, swimming and aquatic activities play a vital role in good physical health, mental well-being and enhanced quality of life, particularly so for those who reside in the Aloha State; and

**WHEREAS**, drowning and water-related injury are a real and serious threat, which can be largely prevented with further education. Hawai'i's drowning rate for residents is second highest in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, educational programming regarding water safety and skills is imperative in preventing drownings and water-related injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, our keiki, as well as Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, are disproportionately impacted by drowning death. This underscores the importance of teaching water safety guidance to residents of all ages and backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, teaching keiki basic water safety as early as possible, designating adult "water watchers" when keiki are playing near water and proliferating culturally competent concepts, such as "be maka'ala, be aware", represent a few of the approaches we can take to help address this serious public safety issue; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous contributions have been made by the recreational water industry, as represented by the organizations involved in the National Water Safety Month Coalition, in developing safe swimming facilities and aquatic programs, both at home and in public places; and

**WHEREAS**, the pool, spa, waterpark, recreation and parks industries are all committed to ongoing efforts to educate the public on water safety best practices, issues and initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, swimming and water recreation can help us all learn, grow, build confidence and develop a healthy sense of self, overall contributing to a healthy and flourishing State; and

**WHEREAS**, it is of vital importance that we strive to teach water safety rules and foster more programs to reach all ages.

**THEREFORE, I, Josh Green, M.D., Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 2026, to be**

## **"WATER SAFETY MONTH"**

in Hawai'i and encourage everyone in the Aloha State to join me in recognizing the importance of water safety and giving a heartfelt mahalo to all those working to protect our citizens from water-related death or injury.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this twenty-fourth day of April 2026.

**Josh Green, M.D.**  
Governor, State of Hawai'i