

## BIAH RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR BY APPOINTING NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**BILLIE "BJ" WADE** has joined the Brain Injury Association of Hawaii as its Executive Director. BJ's goals are to vigorously implement the mission of BIAH. Assisting her are Leeward Pilot Club members Alitoya Huxel and Birdena Samuel. Alitoya is founder of the non-profit organization KAPA and brings her media expertise to BIAH. Birdena is a whiz at research and is the Resources Specialist. Birdena is compiling the list of agencies and organizations to whom referrals are made when BIAH receives requests for information. BIAH salutes its administrative staff and wishes all a healthy, prosperous 2022.



BJ

### MISSION OF THE BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

The mission of this corporation is to improve the quality of life of persons with brain injury and the families of such persons in Hawaii and other areas of the Pacific basin. In this conjunction brain injury is defined as an acquired, non-degenerative brain injury whose causes include but are not limited to trauma, disease, surgery, hypoxia, and anoxia.



Ali



Birdena



## TELL ME A STORY

This is the first in the Year 2022 "Tell Me A Story" series about individuals with brain injuries.

Amanda Orduno describes herself as "a part Filipina American artist struggling with a disability for all her life." Amanda has been living in Oahu since moving with her family more than ten years ago. She has been drawing since she was in 4th grade in school scribbling in the outlines of a notebook. Amanda says the loving support of her father gave her the motivation she needed to pursue her craft. She received her first tablet in high school. She eventually studied Art at Windward Community College. Amanda loves fantasy art, nature, and cute whimsical things. Amanda is currently pursuing a career as a graphic artist and illustrator. Amanda wants to create colorful works of art that motivates viewers to overcome life's struggles. Her hope is that her artistic creations give hope and bring joy to others. Amanda created the BIAH new brain injury warrior logo. How apt that she herself is a warrior. Her logo for BIAH depicts a tan colored, gender neutral warrior with plumeria flowers and green vines entwined on the helmet. A white bandage circles the head trailing off into a banner. The feathers on the helmet and draped around the shoulders of the warrior are colored orange, red and yellow. The three colors symbolize confidence, joy, emotional balance, creativity, harmony, passion, intuition and expression of emotions -- all necessary for brain injured warriors, their family, friends and caretakers.

You can contact Amanda Orduno on [sketchpad@yahoo.com](mailto:sketchpad@yahoo.com) or see her online art portfolio: [https://mad\\_plot\\_point.artstation.com/](https://mad_plot_point.artstation.com/)



**VIRTUALLY SPEAKING**  
**Kailua-Kona ZOOM**  
**Support Group Presentations**

**Speaker: Dr. Bill Code**

**Time: January 12, 2022 at 6:00 PM**

**Title: Dr. Code discusses the use of oxygen**

Dr. Code is a physician who will discuss the use of oxygen therapy, to improve his health, after he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

Join Zoom Meeting [WWW.Zoom.com](http://WWW.Zoom.com).

Meeting ID: 98997548497. Go to zoom and in the upper right hand corner you will see "join meeting". Then enter the Meeting ID 98997548497. Stephanie, our zoom coordinator will let you in.

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 896-2962 (phone/text), or email: [kklemme@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kklemme@hawaii.rr.com).

**FUTURE PRESENTATIONS FROM KAILUA-KONA SUPPORT GROUP**

**February 9** at 6pm Dr. Violet Horvath will be talking about self-advocacy to empower our members in how to self advocate!

**March 9** will be at 4pm to accommodate our speaker (from Texas). Dr. Holly Schonberger is a TBI survivor and now chiropractic physician and she will be talking about her injuries and her journey.



LIFE GOES ON  
AFTER TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY



Robin Brandt (below center) is the Project Director of Ho'oikaika Peer Mentoring Project of the Pacific Disabilities Center



Milton Takara (left) and Megumi Burzynski (right) are volunteers joining Robin Brandt discussing life after acquiring a traumatic brain injury

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To view the above video, go to:



"Life After TBI Goes On"

## Brain Injury Association of Hawaii



*ORGANIZATIONS  
AND THEIR MEMBERS  
WHO SUPPORT AND  
AFFILIATE WITH BIAH  
ARE BRAIN INJURY  
WARRIORS*



*A non-profit service  
organization whose mission  
is to encourage brain safety  
and health*



*A collective of mental  
health clinicians*



*A non-profit organization  
empowering the youth of  
of Hawaii through art  
and technology*

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**Visit our Facebook and Web pages.**

**Webpage: <https://biausa.org/find-bia/hawaii>  
Facebook.com (Brain Injury Association of Hawaii)**