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**HAWAII CELEBRATES WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY
ON MONDAY, JUNE 14**

HONOLULU, HI (June 11, 2021) — Countries around the world, including the U.S., will celebrate World Blood Donor Day on Monday, June 14 to raise global awareness about the need for a safe blood supply and blood products. This year's slogan "Give blood and keep the world beating" highlights the essential contribution blood donors make by saving lives and improving health outcomes with each blood donation.

Here in Hawaii, blood donors will be honored by lighting Honolulu Hale red from June 10 through June 14 and Aloha Tower on June 14 thanks to Mayor Blangiardi and the Department of Transportation's Harbors Division, respectively. Blood Bank of Hawaii's donors, staff and supporters statewide are encouraged to wear red. All those who donate on June 14 will receive a complimentary Blood Bank of Hawaii branded face mask, and those who donate at the Young Street Donor Center will also receive a tote bag courtesy of Bloomingdales.

"We're celebrating World Blood Donor Day to increase awareness about blood and the importance of maintaining a safe blood supply for all of our medical needs," said Blood Bank of Hawaii's Chief Executive Officer, Kim-Anh Nguyen. "While the past year brought many challenges, our community of donors upheld statewide demands and we couldn't be more grateful."

In preparation for a seasonal blood donation decline during the summer, BBH has partnered with Special Olympics Hawaii on a "Be a Sport. Donate Blood." statewide campaign to raise awareness and donations. From now through August 31, with every blood donation made needed sports equipment and/or PPE supplies will be provided to Special Olympics Hawaii athletes. People with intellectual disabilities were disproportionately impacted by the social isolation caused by the pandemic. The blood bank's donations will help Special Olympics Hawaii athletes safely return to play later this year.

A single donation can save 3 lives. Donors interested in giving blood on WBDD or as part of BBH's summer campaign may register at bbh.org or call 808-848-4770. As a reminder, an appointment is required as walk-ins can no longer be accommodated. Interested donors can visit bbh.org/COVID-19 or connect via social media at @BloodBankHawaii for donation locations and hours or for any questions about operations during COVID-19,

About Blood Bank of Hawaii

Founded in 1941, BBH is a non-profit organization committed to providing a safe and reliable supply of blood, blood products and related transfusion services to Hawaii's patients. BBH is licensed and regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, accredited by AABB, and a founding member of America's Blood Centers, the nation's largest network of community-based blood programs. For more information, visit BBH.org.

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