

# *Proclamation*

## *In Recognition of*

## **Older Americans Month**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Hawai'i includes a thriving community of Older Americans, or *Kupuna*, who deserve recognition for their contributions and sacrifices to ensure a better life for our future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Office on Aging is committed to helping all individuals live longer, healthier lives in the communities of their choice for as long as possible, throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, 2015 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of three of our nation's most important programs for older adults which include Medicare, Medicaid and the Older Americans Act; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1965, the Older Americans Act has provided services that help older adults remain healthy and independent by complementing existing medical and health care systems, and with their '*Ohana* and extended family, helping prevent hospital readmissions and supporting some of life's most basic functions, such as bathing or preparing meals; and

**WHEREAS**, these programs also support family caregivers, address issues of exploitation, neglect and abuse of older adults, and adapt services to the needs of *Kupuna* and their '*Ohana* throughout *Hawai'i Nei*; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the value of community engagement and service in helping *Kupuna* remain healthy and active while giving back to others; and

**WHEREAS**, our community can provide opportunities to enrich the lives of individuals of all ages by:


- Promoting and engaging in activity, wellness and social inclusion
- Emphasizing home and community based services that support independent living
- Ensuring community members of all ages benefit from the contributions and experience of *Kupuna*
- Nurturing culturally competent and inter-generational services for *Kupuna*

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May, 2015 as**

## **"OLDER AMERICANS MONTH"**

in Hawai'i, and encourage the citizens of the Aloha State to take the time this month to celebrate our *Kupuna* and the people who serve and support them as powerful and vital individuals who greatly contribute to our communities on every island.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this seventh day of May 2015.

  
DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i