



# *Proclamation*

## *In Recognition of*

### **Celebrating 20 Years of Pacific Tsunami Museum**

**WHEREAS**, the Pacific Tsunami Museum was co-founded by Dr. Walter Dudley and Jeanne Branch Johnston in 1993; Dr. Dudley was in the process of writing his 1988 book, "Tsunami!" and asked the Hilo community for tsunami survivor stories, which he would share with the world; Ms. Johnston, a tsunami survivor herself, felt the need for a tsunami museum to be established in the Hilo area; together the two would go on to co-found the "Hilo Tsunami Museum" in 1993, which was later renamed the "Pacific Tsunami Museum"; and

**WHEREAS**, Susan Gaughan Tissot joined the Pacific Tsunami Museum in December of 1993, bringing with her extensive knowledge and museum experience, and became the museum's Executive Director in 1994; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Pacific Tsunami Museum is to promote public tsunami education for the people of Hawai'i and visitors worldwide, to preserve the social and cultural history of Hawai'i and to serve as a living memorial to those who lost their lives in past tsunami events; and

**WHEREAS**, thanks to a generous donation on May 22, 1997, by First Hawaiian Bank, the Pacific Tsunami Museum has held its historic location in downtown Hilo; the donation of the building was made by former Bank Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Walter A. Dods, Jr., on the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day when sirens sounded, warning of the incoming May 23, 1960, tsunami which would devastate the town of Hilo; and

**WHEREAS**, as a non-profit organization, the Pacific Tsunami Museum, in collaboration with national tsunami centers and state level agencies, has done significant work in educating the Hawai'i community and global visitors of the serious dangers and threats posed by these natural disasters, along with history and remembrance of the April 1, 1946, and May 23, 1960, disasters are shared through artifacts and invaluable tsunami survivor stories of the Hilo community;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim October 1, 2015 as**

## **"THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI MUSEUM"**

in Hawai'i and encourage the citizens of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the Pacific Tsunami Museum for continuing to offer much needed tsunami education programs to residents and visitors alike.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this twenty-ninth day of September 2015.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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