



# *Proclamation*

## *Presented to*

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai'i**

**WHEREAS**, in 2002, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, created National Mentoring Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the goals of National Mentoring Month are to raise awareness of mentoring, recruit individuals to mentor and encourage organizations to engage and integrate quality in mentoring into their efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, a mentor is a caring, consistent presence who devotes time to a young person to help that young person discover personal strength and achieve their potential through a structured and trusting relationship; and

**WHEREAS**, quality mentoring encourages positive choices, promotes self-esteem, supports academic achievement and introduces young people to new ideas; and

**WHEREAS**, mentoring programs have shown to be effective in combating school violence and discipline problems, substance abuse, incarceration and truancy; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor were 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college, 81 percent more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities, more than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports team and 78 percent more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, youth development experts agree that mentoring is critical to social, emotional and cognitive development of youth, helping them navigate the path to adulthood more successfully; and

**WHEREAS**, mentors help young people set career goals and use their personal contacts to help young people meet industry professionals and find jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, all of the above listed benefits serve to link youth to economic opportunity while also strengthening the fiber of our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, despite these benefits, one in three youth will reach the age of 19 without a mentor, constituting a "mentoring gap" that demonstrates a need for collaboration and resources;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim January 1 - 31, 2016 as**

### **"NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH"**

in Hawai'i and encourage the citizens of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai'i, part of the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, for providing children who face adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this first day of January 2016.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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