



Proclamation

Presented to

USA Funds

WHEREAS, USA Funds has provided two grants totaling approximately \$6,800,000 to the University of Hawai'i and Project Lead The Way (PLTW) to support high-quality science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education and build Hawai'i's innovation economy and workforce; and

WHEREAS, USA Funds' \$4,616,710 grant to the University of Hawai'i will generate long-term statewide impact by establishing a model for understanding current and future workforce needs in high-demand, high-wage STEM fields by leveraging current and future collaborations between public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, this effort will bring together statewide government and businesses to prioritize STEM industries and sectors and develop strategies to address short-term and long-term workforce needs in these areas; and

WHEREAS, this effort will create a STEM Center of Excellence at the University of Hawai'i that will work with Hawai'i employers to develop and offer rapid response training for STEM occupations and strengthen STEM academic pathways for K-12 into UH's community colleges and 4-year universities to more efficiently support students in completing their degree; and

WHEREAS, this effort will enhance Hawai'i's existing data systems on student and workforce outcomes to drive decision-making, measure outcomes and inform policy decisions for Hawai'i's education leadership and stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, USA Funds' \$2,180,000 grant to Project Lead the Way will provide all high schools in Hawai'i with the opportunity and financial support to implement PLTW's programs in computer science, engineering and biomedical science; and

WHEREAS, this effort will expand access to and completion of STEM programs of study for students in Hawai'i, thereby encouraging more students to pursue STEM-related degrees and careers; and

WHEREAS, this effort will provide effective professional development for teachers, expanding their abilities to facilitate hands-on, project-based learning in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, through this effort PLTW will engage with educators, students, community leaders, funders and UH-West O'ahu to enhance student engagement in STEM by integrating culturally relevant resources and establishing opportunities for substantive community engagement;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim January 8, 2016 as

"USA FUNDS APPRECIATION DAY"

in Hawai'i and encourage the citizens of the Aloha State to join us in expressing our sincere appreciation to USA Funds for their confidence and investment in Hawai'i students, teachers and the University of Hawai'i, our only public institution for higher education, and its collaboration with the State of Hawai'i partners to build the State's innovation economy and workforce.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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