WHEREAS, recent studies and reports have demonstrated that we can lower our carbon footprint simply by reducing the amount of animal-based foods we eat; and

WHEREAS, a plant-based diet has been shown to use fewer resources and cause less pollution; and

WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of the adult population in the United States and nearly a third of children and teens are overweight or obese, and obesity is associated with a higher risk of various health ailments including heart disease and type-2 diabetes; and

WHEREAS, the American Dietetic Association recognizes "appropriately planned vegetarian diets...may provide health benefits in the prevention and treatment of certain diseases: and the vegetarians tend to have lower rates of heart disease, obesity, hypertension and type-2 diabetes; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of people are reducing their meat consumption to help prevent animal cruelty; and

WHEREAS, national nonprofit organization Compassion Over Killing encourages people to choose vegetarian foods as a way to help build a kinder, cleaner and healthier world, and municipalities across the country have officially recognized the organization's US VegWeek program to that end;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, do hereby proclaim April 20 - 26, 2015 as

“US VEGWEEK”

in Hawai‘i, and encourage the citizens of the Aloha State to join us in encouraging restaurants, schools, grocery stores and other organizations to offer a greater variety of vegetarian foods.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i, on this twentieth day of April 2015.