



Proclamation

In Recognition of

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness and ALS Families Appreciation Month

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive, fatal disease that attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, making even the simplest movements – walking, breathing, speaking, eating, gesturing – eventually impossible; and

WHEREAS, ALS strikes people regardless of race, age, gender, ethnicity or social status, and has no known cause, means of prevention or cure; and

WHEREAS, in the State of Hawai'i, approximately 28 new cases of ALS are diagnosed annually and 112 people are afflicted with ALS at any one time; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are approximately twice as likely to develop ALS as those who have not served in the military; and

WHEREAS, our island communities need to recognize ALS and its physical effects, in order for those currently affected and those whose futures are overshadowed by the specter of ALS, to receive the understanding, legislative action and support they need; and

WHEREAS, ALS patients and their families in Hawai'i have repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary resilience, resourcefulness and dignity despite the difficulties of living with the disease; and

WHEREAS, national and local ALS-related organizations in Hawai'i are coordinating their efforts to provide care to ALS families, including advocating for more funding for research, service, and public awareness;

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

“ALS AWARENESS and ALS FAMILIES APPRECIATION MONTH”

in Hawai'i, and encourage the citizens of the Aloha State to join us in urging our citizens to become educated about ALS, lend their aid to combating the disease, and extend their aloha and support to all families living with ALS.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this twenty-ninth day of April 2016.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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