



Proclamation

In Recognition of

Disability Employment Awareness Month

WHEREAS, the theme for this year's Disability Employment Awareness Month is "#InclusionWorks" and the event is held in Hawai'i each October to coincide with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities represent a viable pool of workers who can support Hawai'i businesses struggling to secure competent and able workers; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, the State of Hawai'i is participating with core partner agencies in five other states to create a Community of Practice which develop policies, practices and systems to better assist and support families with disabled family members to maximize resources and improve outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i is designated as a core state by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, which is investing in systems change efforts to increase community-based integrated employment opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities; and

WHEREAS, 29 percent of individuals with disabilities in Hawai'i between the ages of 16 and 65 were engaged in competitive integrated employment in 2013; and

WHEREAS, full access to community-based competitive integrated employment expands the success of our State in cultivating a more inclusive workforce as we continue our efforts to build a society where everyone who works hard has a chance to get ahead;

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

"DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH"

and encourage the people of the Aloha State to renew our commitment to embrace the talents and skill that individuals with disabilities bring to our workplace and communities.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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