



Proclamation
In Recognition of
Spot the Ant, Stop the Ant Month

WHEREAS, Little Fire Ants (*Wasmannia auropunctata*, LFA) are devastating to the health and well-being of Hawai'i's people and visitors, the state's natural environment, our agriculture industry and economy, and are considered to be one of the world's 100 worst invasive species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Invasive Species Specialist Group; and

WHEREAS, a recent University of Hawai'i study found that LFA could cause \$12.9 billion in economic damages and result in 3.4 billion stings to Hawai'i's people and visitors over the next 35 years on Hawai'i Island alone; and

WHEREAS, LFA have devastated Pacific Island communities where they have become established, including on Hawai'i Island, where they currently pose an extremely high risk of spreading statewide; and

WHEREAS, LFA stings threaten our ability to enjoy our homes, yards, parks and forests, blind our pets and livestock, attack native wildlife including forest birds, ground nesting sea birds and sea turtle hatchlings, and inhibit agricultural field work in infested areas; and

WHEREAS, LFA are a very small, red-orange, slow moving ant species that are significantly more damaging than any other species of ant currently known to be present in Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, LFA are spread through the movement of potted plants, fruits, cut flowers, and other materials from infested areas, and cannot always be easily seen; and

WHEREAS, we can protect our children and our communities from LFA by always examining new plants and annually checking our yards and businesses for the presence of LFA, and submitting ant samples to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture;

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

“SPOT THE ANT, STOP THE ANT MONTH”

in Hawai'i, and urge the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the importance of spotting Little Fire Ants and stopping them in their tracks, and by submitting ant samples to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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