



Proclamation
Presented to
The KŌKUA Program
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

WHEREAS, civic and service organizations have long played a critical role in fostering a community in which members can be proud and thankful as they establish and uphold standards of respectful and equitable inclusion of all persons; and

WHEREAS, various student honor societies (including Mortar Board, Alpha Lambda Delta, and Sigma Tau Sigma) approached the administration of the University of Hawai'i in the summer of 1966 with a proposal to establish an office to provide tutoring and disability access services with continuity and quality; and

WHEREAS, the administration, President Thomas Hamilton, Vice Presidents Robert Hiatt and Richard Takasaki, and Dean John Hoshor responded to the proposal from these students and established the KŌKUA Program (which later became the KŌKUA Program - Kahi O Ka Ulu 'Ana or "Place of Growing") within the College of Arts and Sciences on Tuesday, September 6, 1966 as one of the nation's first disability access offices; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Grace J. Merritt served as founding director of KŌKUA from 1966 – 1982, demonstrating exemplary leadership, personal and professional integrity, global responsibility and selfless dedication to ensure the development and success of the program; and

WHEREAS, KŌKUA, established more than a decade before it was the legal requirement to do so, continues its pioneering, collaborative work toward equal academic access and inclusion for persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, KŌKUA strives to promote the growth and development of students with disabilities by encouraging their self-reliance, resourcefulness and responsibility; and

WHEREAS, thousands of students with disabilities served by KŌKUA have succeeded in making significant personal and professional contributions to their own communities; and

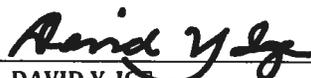
WHEREAS, KŌKUA now serves approximately 1,000 times the number of students who initially gathered under a tree between Sinclair Library and Hemenway Hall and has allowed thousands of university student employees to interact, assist, and recognize the dignity, rights, and worth of persons with disabilities;

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

“KŌKUA'S GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY”

in Hawai'i and encourage the citizens of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the value of the KŌKUA program for students with disabilities that help them to pursue their college and career objectives.

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



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i



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