



Proclamation

In Recognition of

Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO) Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO), previously known as Devic's Disease, is a rare autoimmune disease that primarily affects the eye nerves and spinal cord, and has no known cure; and

WHEREAS, NMO occurs when the body's immune system attacks its own cells, causing permanent disabilities including blindness and paralysis; and

WHEREAS, the cause of NMO is still largely unknown, and there are currently no FDA-approved treatments for the disease making it extremely difficult and costly to receive appropriate medication and treatment; and

WHEREAS, NMO is often misdiagnosed as a type of multiple sclerosis, but is its own distinct condition; and

WHEREAS, increasing awareness about NMO has increased diagnoses, as doctors have become more likely to recognize the varying manifestations of the disease and start proper treatment; and

WHEREAS, the NMO community is dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding of this disease in order to promote research, improve patient care and outcomes, and ultimately find a cure;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim March 2017 as

"Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO) Awareness Month"

in Hawai'i, and encourage the people of the Aloha State to promote awareness and foster greater understanding of this debilitating disease.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this seventeenth day of February 2017.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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