



## *Proclamation*

*In Recognition of*

### **Lions Clubs International 100th Anniversary**

**WHEREAS**, the Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service club association with over 1.35 million members, was founded on June 7, 1917 by Melvin Jones, who encouraged members of his local business club to reach beyond business issues and use their talents to improve their communities and the world; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1925 Helen Keller, an advocate for people with disabilities, challenged the Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness"; and

**WHEREAS**, Lions Clubs International has donated talking books to public libraries for the blind, provided more visible white canes for the visually impaired, trained dog guides, created the world's first eye bank, helped to eliminate river blindness, conducted vision screening for Special Olympics athletes, and supported measles and rubella immunization efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, Lions are among the first to offer volunteer disaster relief in communities affected by natural disasters and the Lions Clubs International Foundation has donated over \$50 million in disaster relief efforts around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Leo Club Program, representing Leadership, Equality, and Opportunity, is an official youth service program of the association, constituting an international network of over 6,500 clubs in over 140 countries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lions Club of Honolulu, also referred to as the Mother of all Lions Clubs in District 50, was the first club formed in Hawai'i in 1926; and

**WHEREAS**, George Akau, a member of the Kamehameha Lions Club established in 1948 and the first club to be named after an individual, coined the club motto "We Serve" which became the international motto in 1956; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1948 the Kalaupapa Lions Club was formed on Moloka'i, of which half the founding members had Hansen's disease, marking a turning point for the Moloka'i colony when 500 Lions and guests from all around the Hawaiian Islands attended the Kalaupapa charter's celebration; and

**WHEREAS**, all Lions Clubs in Hawai'i along with Lions Clubs International are celebrating the Centennial by conducting four major service projects in the areas of sight, youth, hunger, and environment, joining other Lions from around the world with the message "Where there's a need, there's a Lion" and working toward the Centennial Service Challenge to serve 100 million people by December 31, 2017;

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

### **"THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL CENTENNIAL"**

in Hawai'i, as we celebrate their 100 years of service to the people of Hawai'i and the world. We commend the 62 Lions Clubs of Hawai'i for their selfless service and wish them many more years of continued success.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this first day of March 2017.

  
DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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