



Proclamation

In Recognition of

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness and ALS Families Appreciation Month

WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), known to many as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive, fatal neurodegenerative disease that attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, making even the simplest movements – walking, speaking, gesturing, eating – nearly impossible; and

WHEREAS, ALS strikes people regardless of race, gender, age, ethnicity or social status, and has no known cause, means of prevention or cure; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are approximately twice as likely to develop ALS as those who have not served in the military; and

WHEREAS, according to the national ALS Association, approximately 20,000 individuals in the United States are afflicted with ALS at any given time, with 6,000 new cases diagnosed each year, and approximately 70 people in Hawai'i are known to be diagnosed with ALS at this time; and

WHEREAS, the aggressive search for finding the causes of, treatment of, and cure for ALS will ultimately prevent the disease from robbing hundreds of thousands of Americans of their mobility and life; and

WHEREAS, ALS patients and their families in Hawai'i continually demonstrate extraordinary resilience, resourcefulness and dignity despite the daily challenges of living with ALS; and

WHEREAS, national and local ALS-related organizations in Hawai'i are coordinating their efforts to provide care to ALS families, including advocating for more funding for research, service and public awareness;

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

“ALS AWARENESS and ALS FAMILIES APPRECIATION MONTH”

and urge the citizens of the State of Hawai'i to become educated about ALS, assist those living with ALS as well as their caregivers, and help raise awareness and understanding of this debilitating disease.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this twenty-eighth day of April 2017.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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