

# *Proclamation*

## *In Recognition of*

### **Fifth Annual Kona Marshallese Constitution Day**

**WHEREAS**, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) consists of a series of widely dispersed, low-lying coral islands and atolls located about 2,400 miles southwest of Honolulu encompassing more than 750,000 square miles of ocean with a total land mass of 113 square miles; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1944, the United States assumed administrative control of the Marshall Islands under United Nations auspices; self-government began in 1979, followed by the signing of the Compact of Free Association with the United States in 1983 and finally full RMI independence was achieved in 1986; and

**WHEREAS**, Kona Marshallese Constitution Day commemorates the Marshallese people, whose efforts culminated in a national vote on May 1, 1979, establishing a constitution for the Republic of the Marshall Islands and laying the legal foundation for independence and self-governance; and

**WHEREAS**, Kona Marshallese Constitution Day recognizes the Republic's founding fathers and mothers, who worked from tradition and a grounded understanding of Marshallese culture and customs, to enrich the discourse as delegates to their First Constitutional Convention; and

**WHEREAS**, Kona Marshallese Constitution Day, celebrated on Hawai'i Island since 2013, embodies the traditions of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, promoting the free expression and creativity of all citizens to reach their full potential, and provides an opportunity to celebrate the Marshallese; and

**WHEREAS**, Kona Marshallese Constitution Day affirms the universal desire and right of the Marshallese to live in harmony and share the aspirations of all people for a free and peaceful world, in which every citizen can live a life of dignity, self-respect, decency and hope;


**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 12, 2017 as**

### **"KONA MARSHALLESE CONSTITUTION DAY"**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in appreciating and better understanding the history and traditions of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

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

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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