

Proclamation
In Recognition of
Gastroschisis Awareness Day

WHEREAS, gastroschisis is a serious condition involving a malformation of a newborn's abdominal wall; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over the past 18 years, the prevalence of gastroschisis has increased in the United States from one in 2,229 individuals, to now one in roughly 1,900 babies born with the condition; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii had three per 10,000 births affected by gastroschisis in 2005, but by 2012 this number increased to six per 10,000 births; and

WHEREAS, gastroschisis requires surgery soon after birth and is associated with an increased risk for medical complications and death during infancy; and

WHEREAS, babies born with the defect can have ongoing digestive and feeding problems, developmental delays, serious illness and long-term disability and as they grow older, they continue to have serious and debilitating conditions including failure to thrive, slow growth, short bowel syndrome, malrotation of intestines, multiple organ transplants, constant abdominal pain, and ongoing feeding issues; and

WHEREAS, individuals and families affected by gastroschisis experience a sense of isolation, difficulty in obtaining an accurate and timely diagnosis, few treatment options, and problems of accessing and being reimbursed for treatment; and

WHEREAS, the cause of gastroschisis is relatively unknown, and more education and research is needed to understand what is causing the increase, with patients and families bearing a large share of the burden for things such as raising funds for research; and

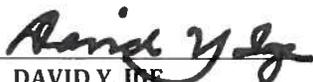
WHEREAS, the national and local non-profit organization, Avery's Angels Gastroschisis Foundation, is dedicated to gastroschisis research, awareness and family support;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim July 30, 2017 as

"GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY"

and encourage the citizens of the State of Hawai'i to become educated about gastroschisis and help raise awareness and understanding of this serious congenital defect.

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



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i



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