

# *Proclamation*

## *In Recognition of*

## **National Health Center Week 2017**

**WHEREAS**, for more than 50 years, Community Health Centers (CHC) have provided high quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventative health care in our nation's underserved communities, delivering value to, and having significant impact on, America's health care system; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawai'i's fourteen CHCs now serve as the health care home for over 150,000 Hawai'i residents and are often the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, CHCs nationwide serve one in every six residents of rural areas, and are a critical element of Hawai'i's health care delivery system serving both rural and urban populations; and

**WHEREAS**, every day, Hawai'i's CHCs are developing new approaches to integrating a wide range of services beyond primary care, including oral health, vision, behavioral health, social support services and pharmacy services to meet the needs and challenges of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, CHCs are locally owned and operated small businesses that serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local economies by generating billions of dollars in combined financial impact in some of the country's most economically disadvantaged communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawai'i's CHCs employ 1,700 people, including physicians, dentists, nurses, nurse practitioners, behavioral health providers, physician's assistants, and outreach personnel who work as multi-disciplinary clinical teams designed to treat the whole patient; and

**WHEREAS**, the CHC model continues to be an effective means of overcoming barriers to healthcare, improving outcomes and lowering costs by addressing access issues such as geography, income, and insurance status; and by managing the chronic conditions of patients to keep them out of costlier healthcare settings like hospital emergency rooms; and

**WHEREAS**, CHCs are on the front line of major health care crises that face our country including care for our veterans, addressing the opioid epidemic and responding to public health threats like the Zika virus; and

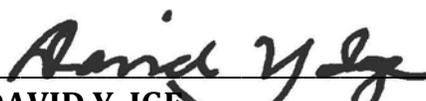
**WHEREAS**, National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to celebrate the legacy of CHCs here in Hawai'i and across the country, and recognize the dedicated staff, board members and all those responsible for the continued success and growth of CHC's since the first one opened its doors 50 years ago;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim August 13-19, 2017 as**

## **"NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK"**

in Hawai'i and encourage all Hawai'i residents to visit their local Community Health Centers, celebrate the important partnerships they have with the communities they serve, and recognize the vital role they play in shaping the future of America's healthcare system

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this of seventh day of August 2017.

  
DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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