



*Proclamation*  
*In Recognition of*  
**Respiratory Care Week**

**WHEREAS**, lung diseases, known collectively as chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD), are the third leading cause of death in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011, about 4 percent of Hawai'i residents reported having been told by a health care professional that they have COPD, characterized by restricted air flow and trouble breathing; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a 2014 Hawai'i State Department of Health survey, about 25 percent of Hawai'i's children and 16 percent of Hawai'i's adults have asthma; and

**WHEREAS**, respiratory therapy includes pulmonary function tests that are used to diagnose lung disease in addition to delivering respiratory care to all types of patients--ranging from infants with under-developed lungs to adults with lung disease--in hospitals, emergency departments, and homecare settings; and

**WHEREAS**, respiratory therapists are important members of the healthcare team whose responsibilities include ensuring emergency airway management, overseeing critical care, dispensing medications to improve acute and chronic lung conditions, providing diagnostic testing for lung disease, and educating individuals about lung health and the effects of smoking; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i Society for Respiratory Care is a volunteer-based non-profit organization committed to the support of the respiratory care practitioner and to the pulmonary health of the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i,** do hereby proclaim October 22 - 28, 2017 as

**"RESPIRATORY CARE WEEK"**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the respiratory care profession and raising awareness for improving lung health in our community.

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



DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i



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