

# *Proclamation*

## *In Recognition of*

# **Craniofacial Acceptance Month**

**WHEREAS**, craniofacial disorders refer to abnormalities of the face and/or head which can result from abnormal skull or facial growth, improper development of skull and soft tissues of the head, birth defects, disease or trauma; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 19 recognized craniofacial disorders, of which cleft lip or cleft palate is most common; and

**WHEREAS**, craniofacial disorders often result in underdeveloped bone structures, fused skin, facial paralysis, dental misalignment, neck problems, hearing loss, speech impairment, breathing and eating difficulties and more; and

**WHEREAS**, each year approximately 600,000 individuals in the U.S. are diagnosed with a craniofacial condition and 227,500 babies are born with a craniofacial condition; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the State Department of Health, cleft palate is one of the most common birth defects in Hawai'i, affecting approximately 1 out of every 500 babies; and

**WHEREAS**, children born with craniofacial disorders often require complex and specialized health care from infancy to young adulthood, including extensive multiple surgeries, as many as 30 to 40 surgeries on average over the course of their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, children with craniofacial conditions contend with social discrimination and emotional isolation, resulting in low self-esteem and rejection by peers; and

**WHEREAS**, families with a member who has a craniofacial condition frequently face emotional and financial demands due to ongoing and expensive medical treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, seeing that "beyond the face is a heart" in persons with craniofacial disorders leads to a world of kindness and compassion;

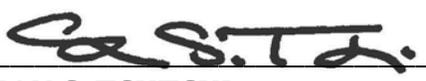
**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim September as**

## **"CRANIOFACIAL ACCEPTANCE MONTH"**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in raising awareness of craniofacial disorders, promoting social acceptance of others for who they are and as they are, and empowering individuals and families affected by facial differences to live fulfilling lives.

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