



Proclamation

In Recognition of

Estuaries Week

WHEREAS, estuaries are unique coastal environments that support more life per square inch than any other ecosystem on Earth, providing habitat for countless species of fish, shellfish, birds, and marine mammals; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i participated in the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, and the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetland Reserve, Mu'olea Point, Pupukea-Paumalu Estuary, and Kilauea Bay are integral to the State of Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i is now part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), a network of 29 coastal sites across the country designated to protect and study estuarine systems,

WHEREAS, the designation of the He'eia NERR earlier this year will provide a "living laboratory" educating residents and visitors about Hawai'i's unique native plants, animals and environments which connect the land and the ocean; and

WHEREAS, estuaries provide numerous services to coastal populations, acting as a first line of defense against storms, rising sea levels, and the effects of climate change as well as a natural water filtration system protecting landowners by filtering runoff; and

WHEREAS, preserving local Hawaiian fish habitats and populations will also preserve our commercial and recreational seafood industries which generate over half a billion dollars every year; and

WHEREAS, there is an economic benefit to maintaining our natural coastal environments as our coasts attract millions of tourists and recreation activities; and

WHEREAS, protecting and restoring our estuaries is vital to our local and national economy because they sustain the fisheries that feed America, ensure outdoor recreational opportunities for current and future generations, reduce the costly impacts of natural hazards, and support local jobs;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim September 16-23, 2017 as

"ESTUARIES WEEK"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in observing Estuaries Week, recognizing the importance of estuaries in Hawai'i's ecosystem, and protecting our environment to make Hawai'i sustainable for all.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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