



# *Proclamation*

*In Recognition of*

## **White Cane Safety Awareness Day**

**WHEREAS**, on October 6, 1964, a joint resolution of the United States Congress was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim October 15 of each year as White Cane Safety Day; in 2011, White Cane Safety Day was also named Blind Americans Equality Day by President Barack Obama; and

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 2,700 blind and visually impaired individuals listed on the state's blind registry; White Cane Safety Day reminds the public that the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services' Ho'opono Services for the Blind provides services such as blindness skills training, summer employment and vocational rehabilitation to the blind and visually impaired statewide, assisting more than 600 blind and visually impaired citizens in the last fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, White Cane Safety Awareness Day in Hawai'i will be recognized with the 25<sup>th</sup> White Cane Awareness Walk on O'ahu as well as similar White Cane Awareness Walks on the islands of Kaua'i and Hawai'i in Hilo and Kona; the purpose of the walks is to make the public aware of the white cane and to raise awareness about the importance of the white cane to the independence and mobility of the blind and visually impaired; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i State Department of Human Services, Ho'opono Services for the Blind will be holding its annual White Cane Safety Awareness Day Walk on October 20, 2017 through downtown Honolulu;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim October 20, 2017 as**

### **"WHITE CANE SAFETY AWARENESS DAY"**

in Hawai'i, and urge the people of the Aloha State support the Hawai'i State Department of Human Services, Ho'opono Services for the Blind and its efforts to increase awareness about the white cane and its importance in assisting our blind and visually impaired citizens travel safely in our community.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, in Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this tenth day of October 2017.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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