



Proclamation
In Recognition of
World Wetlands Day

WHEREAS, natural wetland habitats in Hawai'i include marshes, swamps, bogs, seagrass beds and tidepools, and man-made wetlands include taro patches, prawn ponds, fishponds and other irrigated croplands; and

WHEREAS, wetlands hold cultural and historical significance since various types of wetlands can be found within the ahupua'a, subdivisions of the islands that stretched from mountain to sea; and

WHEREAS, wetlands protect our coastlines, provide natural sponges against flooding and store carbon dioxide to regulate climate change; and

WHEREAS, wetlands can store excess water during heavy rainfall and recharge groundwater aquifers, reducing flood impact to urban areas; and

WHEREAS, pollution in streams and marine reef areas are reduced by wetlands, which store, filter and absorb excess sediments and pollutants; and

WHEREAS, wetlands are vital to livelihoods, ranging from fishing, rice farming, travel, tourism and water provision; and

WHEREAS, the integration of wetlands into urban planning can provide cities with economic, social and cultural benefits, supplying cities with water and green spaces for recreation; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, "Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future," encourages us to care for our natural and cultural resources, acknowledge our dependence on the natural world today, and meet the increasing demand for land while still preserving the natural environment by building sustainable urban wetlands;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim February 2, 2018 as

"WORLD WETLANDS DAY"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in raising awareness on the importance of protecting and enhancing our Hawaiian ecosystems for future generations and become active agents of sustainable and equitable development.

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-third day of January 2018.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i



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