



# *Proclamation*

## *In Recognition of*

### **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, over 5 million Americans in the United States have a developmental disability – a severe, chronic disability that is likely to continue indefinitely, requiring lifelong or extended support and assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 22,619 people in Hawai'i live with a developmental disability; and

**WHEREAS**, every person has a capacity to learn and the potential to contribute to society, and people with disabilities can and do play a valuable role as active citizens in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, all individuals have a right to be treated with respect and dignity, make their own choices, participate in the community, have opportunities to realize their personal goals including economic self-sufficiency, and achieve positive outcomes through individualized services; and

**WHEREAS**, support provided by family members, caregivers, friends, professionals and concerned citizens enable individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to participate more freely in education, employment, and community living and lead full and productive lives; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawai'i is one of 15 states that no longer operates an institution for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and instead provides programs and services in the mainstream community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Developmental Disabilities Division in the State Department of Health provides services to people in their homes and in community-based settings that include residential habilitation, employment support, training and consultation, specialized medical equipment, environment accessibility and vehicular modifications, assistive technology, and personal emergency response system; and

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, DOUGLAS S. CHIN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim March 2018 as**

## **“DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH”**

in Hawai'i and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to take time to support this year's theme “See Me For Me,” look beyond a person's disability and see him or her as a person and not just a person with a disability, recognize the abilities and contributions of people with developmental disabilities, teach our keiki the importance of inclusion, and transform our communities into openhearted, supportive places for everyone.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this first day of March 2018.

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

  
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DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i