



Proclamation

In Recognition of

Spread the Word to End the Word Day

WHEREAS, Spread the Word to End the Word is an ongoing movement by Special Olympics and its supporters to inspire respect and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities; and

WHEREAS, language affects attitudes, and attitudes in turn affect actions; and

WHEREAS, the "R-word" is a form of hate speech when used with intent and an unnecessary perpetuator of stigma when used carelessly and thoughtlessly; and

WHEREAS, the "R-word" reinforces painful stereotypes of people with intellectual disabilities as less valued members of humanity; and

WHEREAS, respectful and inclusive language is essential to the movement for dignity and humanity of people with intellectual disabilities; and

WHEREAS, young people around the world are taking a stand and raising awareness of the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the R-word; and

WHEREAS, Spread the Word to End the Word encourages kindness and actions in the spirit of aloha; and

WHEREAS, the Spread the Word to End the Word campaign, created by youth, is intended to engage schools, organizations and communities to rally and pledge their support to promote inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim March 9, 2018 as

"SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD DAY"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in raising awareness of the positive results for people with intellectual disabilities and the consciousness of community as we strive to end usage of the R-word.

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this 19th day of January 2018.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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