



# *Proclamation*

## *In Recognition of*

### **'Ōhi'a Lehua Day**

**WHEREAS**, the 'ōhi'a lehua tree is the most abundant native tree in the islands' rainforests, comprising approximately 80% of Hawai'i's native forests; and

**WHEREAS**, 'ōhi'a lehua trees are vital to our ecosystem, providing shelter and food for numerous native birds, insects and other invertebrates and helping to replenish our island aquifers which provide drinking and irrigation water for our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, 'ōhi'a is highly valued in commerce, used for flooring, fencing, decoration, framing, firewood, and landscaping; and

**WHEREAS**, Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) is a fungal disease that attacks and kills healthy 'ōhi'a lehua trees; and

**WHEREAS**, ROD has killed trees in all districts of Hawai'i Island and ongoing aerial surveys report an estimate of 75,000 acres of 'ōhi'a lehua have already died from this booming virus; and

**WHEREAS**, the crowns of ROD affected trees or entire branches turn yellowish to brown within a few days to a few weeks; and

**WHEREAS**, it is projected that 90% of the forest will perish within the next four years if ROD is left unchecked; and

**WHEREAS**, ROD has the potential to cause major ecosystem disturbances across all islands, negatively affecting watersheds, cultural traditions, natural resources and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, to help prevent the spread of ROD, landowners, hikers and park users can stay on established trails, clean shoes and gear before and after entering forests, wash tools and vehicles, avoid contact with suspected ROD trees, refrain from cutting or breaking branches and roots, and avoid inter-island transport of 'ōhi'a wood or 'ōhi'a parts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lyons Estate and Daughters of Hawai'i work together to educate the public on the importance of 'ōhi'a to Native Hawaiian culture and contribute to the sustainability of Hawai'i's environment by holding an 'ōhi'a lehua tree planting ceremony at the Queen Emma Summer Palace;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, DOUGLAS S. CHIN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2018 as**

## **“ 'ŌHI'A LEHUA DAY ”**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in raising awareness of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death and prevention methods, report locations of infected trees, support ROD pathology research, and continue seed banking efforts to ensure a thriving future of Hawai'i's ecosystem.

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

  
DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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