



Proclamation

In Recognition of

ALS Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive, fatal disease that attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, making the simplest movements, like walking, breathing, speaking, eating, and gesturing eventually impossible; and

WHEREAS, ALS strikes people regardless of race, age, gender, ethnicity or social status, and currently has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure, making diagnosis difficult; and

WHEREAS, symptoms include progressive muscle weakness, changes in vocal pitch, slurred speech, tripping, dropping things, abnormal fatigue of arms and legs, muscle cramps and uncontrollable periods of laughing or crying; and

WHEREAS, in the State of Hawai'i, approximately 29 new cases of ALS are diagnosed annually and 71 are afflicted with ALS at any one time; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are approximately twice as likely to develop ALS compared to those who have not served in the military; and

WHEREAS, our island communities need to recognize ALS and its consequential conditions for ALS patients and those whose futures are overshadowed by the specter of ALS and ensure they receive the understanding, legislative action, and support they need; and

WHEREAS, ALS patients and their families in Hawai'i have repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary resilience, resourcefulness, and dignity despite the difficulties of living with ALS; and

WHEREAS, national and local ALS-related organizations in Hawai'i are coordinating their efforts to provide care to ALS families, which includes advocating for more funding for research, service, and public awareness;

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

"ALS Awareness Month"

in Hawai'i, and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in urging our citizens to learn more about ALS, help combat the disease, and extend our aloha and support to all families living with ALS.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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