



# *Proclamation*

## *In Recognition of*

## **International Year of the Reef**

**WHEREAS**, healthy coral reefs are the world's most productive marine ecosystems and must be protected as they are critical in providing food, jobs, recreational opportunities and coastal protection; and

**WHEREAS**, coral reefs provide habitat for one-third of all marine fish species, build tropical islands, protect coasts from waves and storms, contain an array of potential pharmaceuticals, and support tourism and fishing industries worth billions of dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the world's coral reefs have been damaged or destroyed, with evidence suggesting the cause due to increasing human impacts, climate change and other factors; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawai'i's coral reefs are vibrant, living organisms, home to over 7,000 known species of marine plants and animals; and

**WHEREAS**, the ocean and its living creatures that occupy Hawai'i's reefs and waters continue to hold great significance and importance in native Hawaiian culture; and

**WHEREAS**, we need to effectively manage the local stressors that are within our control, including sediment and nutrient runoff from land, invasive species, and illegal and unsustainable fishing; and

**WHEREAS**, since scientific evidence suggests that the health and function of at least 30% of nearshore reef areas are necessary to sustain the productivity of a reef region like the main Hawaiian Islands, Hawai'i is committed to effectively managing 30% of the state's nearshore waters by 2030;

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

## **"YEAR OF THE REEF"**

in Hawai'i, in conjunction with the International Year of the Reef, and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the value and importance of healthy coral reefs and dedicate ourselves to protecting them for future generations.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-sixth day of April 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