



Proclamation

In Recognition of

Marshallese Constitution Day

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is made up of widely dispersed, low-lying coral islands and atolls located about 2,400 miles southwest of Honolulu, encompassing more than 750,000 square miles of ocean with a total land mass of 113 square miles; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, the United States of America (USA) assumed administrative control of the Marshall Islands under United Nations auspices as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands following the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, a constitution for the RMI was established by national vote on May 1, 1979 which laid the legal foundation for independence and self-governance; and

WHEREAS, the Compact of Free Association with the United States was signed in 1983 and the RMI gained full independence in 1986; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of Hawai'i makes our lives brighter and better, and Hawai'i has a long history of welcoming immigrants and is home to a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural population, including people originating from the Marshall Islands; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i thrives on the diversity and ingenuity of all our people, and we will continue to value and be enriched by the cultural contributions of our Marshallese friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the Big Island Marshallese Community Association continues to work with church groups, school administrators, public and private health sectors, social services, housing, immigration agencies, legal justice partners, and other government agencies to increase resources, programs and services that will assist the Marshallese community; and

WHEREAS, Marshallese Constitution Day celebrates Marshallese independence and embodies the traditions of the RMI, promoting free expression and creativity of all citizens to reach their full potential, and affirms the universal desire and right of the Marshallese to live in harmony and share the aspirations of all people for a free and peaceful world in which every citizen can live a life of dignity, self-respect, decency and hope;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, DOUGLAS S. CHIN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2018 as

“MARSHALLESE CONSTITUTION DAY”

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the Marshallese community for their work in building a better future and promoting collaboration and partnership in the Hawai'i Island community.

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



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i



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