



# *Proclamation*

## *In Recognition of*

## **2018 International Assistance Dog Week**

**WHEREAS**, assistance dogs are dogs that transform and improve the lives of their human partners who live with physical and/or mental disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to helping their human partners complete essential, day-to-day tasks and activities like walking, dressing, and doing laundry, assistance dogs are also devoted companions, best friends, and close family members; and

**WHEREAS**, there are several types of assistance dogs, including service dogs, seizure response dogs, service dogs for children with autism, and combination dogs; and

**WHEREAS**, service dogs assist people with physical disabilities and neurological disorders with tasks such as retrieving items, pulling wheelchairs, pushing buttons, and reminding them to take prescribed medications; and

**WHEREAS**, seizure alert and response dogs are trained to assist people with epilepsy, panic attacks, strokes, or post-traumatic stress disorder by activating life-alert systems, preventing injuries, and supporting the rehabilitation process; and

**WHEREAS**, service dogs for children with autism help autistic children and their families by disrupting repetitive behaviors, preventing meltdowns, and keeping children from wandering away; and

**WHEREAS**, highly skilled assistance dog trainers can train any breed of dog for a life of service, and training often begins when puppies are only a few weeks old and can last for months or years; and


**WHEREAS**, International Assistance Dog Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the selfless service assistance dogs provide their human partners;

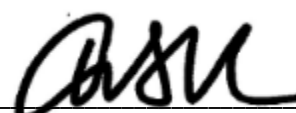
**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, DOUGLAS S. CHIN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i,** do hereby proclaim August 5 - 11, 2018 as

## **“ASSISTANCE DOG WEEK”**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in honoring the professionals who raise and train assistance dogs, understanding how specially trained assistance dogs help people with special needs, and recognizing the heroic deeds performed by assistance dogs in our local communities.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this third day of August 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