



Proclamation

WHEREAS, rural communities throughout Hawai'i embody the true meaning of the Aloha Spirit and are wonderful places to live, work, play and learn; and

WHEREAS, there are over 400,000 citizens in Hawai'i who reside in rural areas, have a strong sense of community and work hard to contribute to the overall economy of our state; and

WHEREAS, rural hospitals, clinics and centers reach beyond geographical boundaries to provide a source of innovation and resourcefulness, and are typically the economic foundation of their communities; and

WHEREAS, while a small percentage of the Hawai'i population live in rural areas, a large percentage of trauma occurs in these places which makes ambulatory and emergency medical services especially critical; and

WHEREAS, rural communities face accessibility issues, lack of adequate healthcare providers, an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of uninsured and under-insured citizens; and

WHEREAS, being a rural health care provider allows for comprehensive, compassionate, patient-centered and holistic care to be delivered to those in need; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i's rural health care providers contribute to creating a 21st century health system with improved access, treatment, and affordability for all Hawai'i residents on all islands; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i Department of Health - Family Health Services Division, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Hawai'i State Rural Health Association, Kaua'i Rural Health Association, Moloka'i Rural Health Association, Hawai'i Island Rural Health Association, Ka'u Rural Health Community Association, and National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health have been instrumental in the promotion of quality rural health care in communities across Hawai'i;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, DOUGLAS S. CHIN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2018 as

"RURAL HEALTH DAY"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the importance of rural health care providers who work to improve the health and well-being of people who live in rural communities in Hawai'i.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this third day of October 2018.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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