



Proclamation

WHEREAS, 36.7 million people worldwide have been infected with the HIV virus or AIDS and 35 million people have died from HIV- or AIDS-related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, while significant strides have been made in developing effective treatments, there is still no proven cure for HIV and AIDS; and

WHEREAS, in Hawai'i, almost 5,000 persons were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS since the start of the epidemic in the 1980s with more than 2,500 persons currently living with diagnosed HIV; and

WHEREAS, stigma, discrimination, homelessness, substance use and behavioral health continue to be barriers to successful HIV prevention, testing and treatment; and

WHEREAS, in Hawai'i, approximately 500 persons living with HIV are not receiving HIV care or not getting care on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, to end the HIV epidemic in Hawai'i, it is critical that people living with HIV have access to comprehensive health insurance, primary care, and appropriate HIV medical care and support; and

WHEREAS, the "Hawai'i to Zero" campaign aims to end the HIV epidemic in Hawai'i with zero new HIV infections, zero deaths related to HIV, and zero HIV-related stigma; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i has made gains in HIV care with 86 percent of persons newly diagnosed linked with HIV care within one month of diagnosis, approximately 80 percent of persons living with HIV receiving HIV medical care, and 70 percent achieving HIV viral suppression; and

WHEREAS, 2018 marks the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day that raises awareness of HIV and AIDS to prevent its spread and honor those affected or lost to the epidemic;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, DOUGLAS S. CHIN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2018 as

"WORLD AIDS DAY"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in the fight against AIDS and recognize the World AIDS Day Committee, Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center and many community partners for their efforts to get Hawai'i to Zero, and honor those affected by or lost to the disease.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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