



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the 2019 theme for World Hepatitis Day is “Find the Missing Millions,” which emphasizes the need to expand the diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis; and

WHEREAS, viral hepatitis B and C kills more than 1.3 million people each year, yet an estimated 300 million people living with viral hepatitis are unaware that there is a cure for hepatitis C and a vaccine and treatment for hepatitis B; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends hepatitis B vaccination for all infants and children younger than 19 who have not been vaccinated; people with hepatitis C or HIV infection, with chronic liver disease, at risk of exposure through blood or sex, in jail or prison; and individuals who travel to countries where hepatitis B is common; and

WHEREAS, the CDC also recommends that people born between 1945 and 1965 get tested for hepatitis C; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i has one of the highest rates of liver cancer in the U.S. with up to 63,000 people possibly affected, and the leading cause can be attributed to hepatitis B and C; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i recently expanded MedQUEST access to hepatitis C medications and continues to maintain its longstanding syringe access program to curb the spread of hepatitis C among persons who inject drugs; and

WHEREAS, Hep Free Hawai‘i, a community coalition of over 90 partners and stakeholders with the mission to increase awareness, access, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of liver disease, is declaring the elimination of viral hepatitis in Hawai‘i—an achievable and important priority—with a kick-off at the 2019 Hawai‘i Hepatitis Elimination Planning Summit in Honolulu on July 28, 2019;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, JOSHUA B. GREEN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, do hereby proclaim July 28, 2019 as

“HEPATITIS ELIMINATION DAY”

in Hawai‘i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in learning more about viral hepatitis and help eliminate hepatitis by supporting prevention, diagnosis and treatment for all people at risk or living with viral hepatitis B and C in our islands.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i, this tenth day of July 2019.

JOSHUA B. GREEN
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai‘i

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai‘i