WHEREAS, almost 22,000 people in Hawai‘i have developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, developmental disabilities include autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, epilepsy, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, Tourette syndrome, and other disorders that cause physical, learning, language or behavior impairment; and

WHEREAS, all individuals with developmental disabilities need full access to education, employment, housing, transportation and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, all individuals with developmental disabilities should be treated with respect and dignity, and be empowered to live self-determined lives; and

WHEREAS, people with developmental disabilities have many skills, talents, and abilities to contribute to our neighborhoods and communities; and

WHEREAS, the most effective way to increase this awareness is through everyone’s active participation in community activities and the openness to learn and acknowledge each individual’s contributions; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai‘i has a vested interest in increasing the inclusion of people living with a disability by providing access, meaningful services, and improved outcomes for all citizens at the state, county, local, and private sector levels;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, do hereby proclaim March 2020 as

“DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH”

in Hawai‘i and call upon all citizens, public and private agencies, businesses and schools in the State of Hawai‘i to take time to get to know someone with a developmental disability and to engage and encourage them in their endeavors.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i, this nineteenth day of February 2020.

David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai‘i