



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the 'ōhi'a lehua tree is the most abundant native tree in the islands' rainforests, comprising approximately 80 percent of Hawai'i's native forests; and

WHEREAS, the 'ōhi'a is the first plant to recolonize and thrive after Pele's new land creations; and

WHEREAS, 'ōhi'a lehua trees are vital to our ecosystem, providing shelter and food for numerous native birds, insects, and other invertebrates, and helping to replenish our island aquifers which provide drinking and irrigation water for our communities; and

WHEREAS, 'ōhi'a lehua trees play a key role in watershed protection and water conservation by retaining water and preventing erosion and flooding; and

WHEREAS, 'ōhi'a is highly valued in commerce, used for flooring, fencing, decoration, framing, firewood, and landscaping; and

WHEREAS, the 'ōhi'a lehua trees are culturally symbolic and are used for kapa, poi pounding boards, medicine and hula; and

WHEREAS, to help prevent the spread of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, a fungal disease that is killing healthy 'ōhi'a lehua trees on Hawai'i Island, Maui, Kaua'i and O'ahu, everyone should clean their shoes, gears and cars before and after entering forest areas; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians, scientists, government officials and the public can work together to conserve, educate and celebrate the importance of the 'ōhi'a lehua, bringing awareness of Native Hawaiian culture and contributing to the sustainability of Hawai'i's unique environment;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, JOSHUA B. GREEN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2020 as

“ 'ŌHI'A LEHUA DAY ”

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us as we recognize the 'ōhi'a lehua tree in Hawai'i's cultural history as well as our sustainable future, and we urge everyone to do their part to protect our forests and ecosystems.

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



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



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i