



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a fatal disease that attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, resulting in progressive loss of muscle control; and

WHEREAS, people with ALS eventually lose their ability to walk, talk, eat and breathe; and

WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, means of prevention nor cure and is difficult to diagnose, often taking months or years; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that veterans are twice as likely to develop ALS than civilians; and

WHEREAS, in the State of Hawai'i, approximately 28 new cases of ALS are diagnosed annually, and 112 are afflicted with ALS at any one time; and

WHEREAS, ALS patients and their families in Hawai'i have repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary resilience, resourcefulness, and dignity despite the difficulties of living with ALS; and

WHEREAS, national and local ALS-related organizations in Hawai'i are coordinating their efforts to provide care to ALS families, including advocating for more research funding, service, and public awareness;

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

“ALS AWARENESS MONTH”

in Hawai'i and ask citizens of the Aloha State to join me in keeping the conversation going to increase understanding of ALS, show appreciation to ALS families for their strength and courage, and extend our aloha and support to all families living with ALS.

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



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i