



Proclamation

WHEREAS, 4,000 preventable hepatitis-related deaths occur worldwide each day, even though there is an effective cure for hepatitis C and a vaccine and effective treatment for hepatitis B; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination against hepatitis B for infants, children and adults and hepatitis C testing for adults; and

WHEREAS, increasing insurance coverage and the development of safer and effective medications for combating hepatitis B and curing hepatitis C have made the prevention, screening, and treatment of both diseases increasingly accessible; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i is the state with one of the highest rates of liver cancer in the U.S., and the leading causes in Hawai'i are hepatitis B and C, with up to 63,000 people in the Aloha State possibly affected; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i is currently engaged in measures to combat viral hepatitis, including a syringe access program to curb the spread of viral hepatitis from shared needles; and

WHEREAS, Hep Free Hawai'i, a community coalition of over 90 partners and stakeholders, is dedicated to increasing awareness of and access to viral hepatitis B and C care services in Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to take a proactive approach to all infectious diseases, including the implementation of strategies that address equitable access to care and treatment for minorities, immigrants, and others impacted by social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, Hep Free Hawai'i will unveil the "Hawai'i Hepatitis Elimination Strategy 2020–2030," based on the core values of harm reduction, social justice, intersectionality, and aloha;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the **State of Hawai'i**, do hereby proclaim July 28, 2020 as

“HAWAI'I HEPATITIS ELIMINATION DAY”

and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in raising awareness about viral hepatitis and support elimination efforts to equitably prevent, diagnose, and treat all people at risk for or living with viral hepatitis in Hawai'i.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-second day of July 2020.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i