



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, quality afterschool programs and opportunities provide safe, challenging and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills; support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends; build stronger communities by promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adult volunteers; and engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

**WHEREAS**, Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, 19.4 million families report that they would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were available; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Hawai'i's afterschool programs are keeping kids engaged with virtual activities; caring for children of essential workers; providing meals, learning social-emotional supports and emergency childcare services; and checking in the well-being of youths and families; and

**WHEREAS**, afterschool programs are essential to Hawai'i's economic recovery as they provide safe, supervised spaces for students and give parents peace of mind when they return to work; and

**WHEREAS**, although many afterschool programs across the country are closing their doors and turning off their lights due to funding shortfalls, the State of Hawai'i is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to be productive members of our communities;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i**, do hereby proclaim October 22, 2020 as

## **“LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY”**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in recognizing the importance of and supporting innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

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

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i