



Proclamation

WHEREAS, rural communities often face accessibility issues, a lack of health care providers, an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and a larger percentage of uninsured and under-insured citizens; and

WHEREAS, ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, there are over 400,000 citizens in Hawai'i who live in the state's rural areas where there is a significant need for primary care, mental health, substance abuse and oral health care; and

WHEREAS, rural health clinics in the State of Hawai'i play an important role in meeting health care needs for people living in more isolated areas, particularly on the neighbor islands; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Department of Health–Family Health Services Division, Primary Care and Rural Health Office, Hawai'i State Rural Health Association, Hawai'i Island Rural Health Association, Ka'u Rural Health Community Association, Kaua'i Rural Health Association, Moloka'i Rural Health Association, and National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health have been instrumental in the promotion of quality rural health care in communities across Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, rural areas throughout the State of Hawai'i have a strong sense of community, and Hawai'i's rural health care providers contribute to creating a 21st century health care system with improved access, treatment, and affordability for all Hawai'i residents on all islands;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the **State of Hawai'i**, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2020 as

“RURAL HEALTH DAY”

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in recognizing the value and importance of rural health care providers who work to improve the health and well-being of people who live in rural communities across the islands.

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



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i