Proclamation

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, 28 million people worldwide are living with HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and 690,000 worldwide died from HIV/AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) in 2019; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 2,300 persons currently living with HIV in Hawai‘i and approximately 400 are not receiving HIV care; and

WHEREAS, people living with HIV often experience loneliness and isolation, and it is critical that they receive appropriate HIV medical care and support; and

WHEREAS, barriers such as stigma, discrimination, homelessness, behavioral health and substance use continue to hinder successful HIV prevention, testing and treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai‘i to Zero campaign aims to end the HIV epidemic with zero new HIV infections, zero deaths related to HIV, and zero HIV-related stigma; and

WHEREAS, while great progress has been made in the treatment for those living with HIV/AIDS and new prevention strategies can prevent new infections, there is still no cure for HIV/AIDS;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2020 as “WORLD AIDS DAY”

in Hawai‘i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in the fight against HIV/AIDS and #RockTheRibbon together to show support for people living with HIV and remember those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i, this twenty-third day of November 2020.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai‘i