



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that is caused by a variety of infectious viruses and noninfectious agents leading to a range of health problems, some of which can be fatal, and viral hepatitis is a collection of viruses that attack the liver and may lead to liver disease and liver cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawai'i has one of the highest rates of liver cancer in the U.S., and the leading causes are hepatitis B and C; and

**WHEREAS**, viral hepatitis is estimated to impact roughly 63,000 people in Hawai'i; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme of World Hepatitis Day 2022 is "I Can't Wait," emphasizing that, with a person dying every 30 seconds from a hepatitis related illness—even in the current COVID-19 crisis—the world can't wait to act on viral hepatitis; 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**, Hep Free Hawai'i is a coalition of local, national, and global partners dedicated to increasing awareness of and access to viral hepatitis and harm care reduction services throughout the state of Hawai'i; and

**WHEREAS**, Hep Free Hawai'i's mission is to raise awareness and increase access for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of liver disease, especially viral hepatitis and related harms; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 28, 2020, Hep Free Hawai'i and its partners unveiled "Hep Free 2030: 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, 2022 as

## **"World Hepatitis Day"**

in Hawai'i 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 Hawaii.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-fifth day of July 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i