



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of Abilities Unlimited

WHEREAS, Abilities Unlimited (AU) was established by Winners at Work, Inc. in 1983, with a focus on building inclusive communities that empower individuals with disabilities to participate in opportunities in all sectors of community life,

WHEREAS, AU serves the state Department of Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation by providing one-on-one assistance in developing creative solutions for individuals with disabilities, helping in every step on the road to gaining and maintaining competitive employment; and

WHEREAS, AU offers many programs, including Personal Assistance/Habilitation services, which helps individuals with disabilities develop independence and important skills through the assistance of qualified Direct Support Workers; the Travel Training Program with the City & County of Honolulu to help participants increase independence by learning to navigate public transit; the AU Empowerment & Employment Program to mentor AmeriCorps members to become employment counselors for individuals with disabilities; and the 5th Floor Café, which provides participants valuable experience operating a full-service breakfast menu and lunch service in the Department of Health building at 1250 Punchbowl; and

WHEREAS, AU has designated March 2014 as Abilities Unlimited Month as part of its commitment to outreach and advocacy, featuring several events to build awareness and community support for AU and its proud participants;

WHEREAS, AU will engage the community with events in March, including a visit entertaining residents of Kuakini Long-Term Care Facility's Hale Pulama Mau; an emergency preparedness class provided by the University of Hawai'i's Center on Disability Studies through a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant; a Day at the Capitol presented by the Hawai'i State Council on Disabilities for residents statewide to meet and speak with legislators about developmental issues affecting their lives; six music therapy workshops provided by Sounding Joy Music Therapy; makeovers for AU participants by students of Paul Mitchell the School; and the "Park Place" Kick-off event on March 29 at PARK Restaurant in The Lotus Hotel benefiting AU; and

WHEREAS, AU will host the inaugural Abilities Unlimited Film Festival (AUFF) on March 29, featuring eight short films by local filmmakers that, in conjunction with Public Service Announcements by AU in a variety of media, will raise awareness and build community support empowering individuals with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim March, 2014, as

"ABILITIES UNLIMITED MONTH"

in Hawai'i, and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in celebrating the many contributions to our community by individuals with disabilities, and share Abilities Unlimited's focus on abilities rather than disabilities.

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-fifth day of March, 2014.


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i


SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i