



Proclamation *Presented*

In Recognition of Disability Employment Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month is held in Hawai'i each October to coincide with the National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a nationwide campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities; the theme for 2013 is "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task"; and

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month reminds us that the United States Department of Labor reported that, as of August 2013, the Labor Force Participation for people with disabilities is near 20 percent; the unemployment rate of people with disabilities is nearly double the number of people without disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month raises awareness about people with disabilities having the skill, talent and abilities to contribute to the labor force, and they help to strengthen our state's economy and diversity of our workforce; and

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month encourages employers from the public and private sector to promote and support employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, providing the same opportunities to citizens without disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month celebrates the success of our state being inclusive of all individuals, including those with disabilities who desire to live the "American Dream" and gain financial stability and independence through employment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Neil Abercrombie, Governor, and **I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI**, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim October 2013 as

"DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH"

in Hawai'i and encourage the people of the Aloha State to join us in supporting employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-third day of September, 2013.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i



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