



Proclamation *Presented*

In Recognition of Disability Employment Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month is held in Hawai'i each October to coincide with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a nationwide campaign raising awareness about disability employment issues and celebrating the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities; the theme for 2014 is "Expect. Employ. Empower"; and

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month reminds us that the United States Department of Labor reported that in 2013, the Labor Force Participation for people with disabilities was 17.6 percent, in comparison to a 64 percent employment rate of people without disabilities, while the 2012 American Community Survey found that in Hawai'i 38.6 percent of people with disabilities were in the workforce versus 78.7 percent for those without; and

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month raises awareness of people with disabilities who also have the skill, talent and abilities to contribute to the labor force, and who help to strengthen our state's economy as well as the diversity of our workforce; and

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month supports "Employment First" as an expectation helping to facilitate the full inclusion of people with the most significant disabilities in the workplace and community; 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 2014 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 thirtieth day of September, 2014.


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i


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