



*Proclamation  
Presented*

**In Recognition of  
Disability History Awareness Month in Hawai'i**

**WHEREAS, Disability History Awareness Month** recognizes that an estimated 51.2 million Americans, or approximately 18% of the total population, have disabilities, and one in five people in the State of Hawai'i has a disability; and

**WHEREAS, Disability History Awareness Month** originated in 1945 with a declaration by U.S. Congress to set aside a week to highlight the employment of the handicapped, which today has evolved into "National Disability Employment Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS, Disability History Awareness Month** allows the public to recognize the disabled community's accomplishments, gifts, talents, and inherent civil and human rights, and to promote the respectful treatment of people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS, Disability History Awareness Month** notes that, since 2006, 23 states have introduced and passed legislation to encourage and promote the importance of learning more about their respective disability community and honor the contributions made by disabled people to contemporary American society; and

**WHEREAS, Disability History Awareness Month** highlights the 2013 passage by the Hawai'i State Legislature of "Travelers with Disabilities Month" resolution, which promotes tolerance and acceptance of travelers with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS, Disability History Awareness Month** cites the University of Hawai'i discovery of a Pidgin sign language, which was used by the deaf in Hawai'i as early as 1820, predating American Sign Language; and

**WHEREAS, Disability History Awareness Month** in Hawai'i enhances the federally designated National Disability Employment Awareness Month by increasing awareness of the contributions made by disabled individuals to our community;

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

**"DISABILITY HISTORY AWARENESS MONTH"**

in Hawai'i and encourage the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing and celebrating the rich history and achievements of Hawai'i's disabled community.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this seventeenth day of October, 2013.

  
NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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