



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month 2013

WHEREAS, Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month 2013, recognized throughout the month of April 2013, will raise awareness about Esophageal Cancer being the fastest growing cancer diagnosis in the United States, which has increased in the number of citizens being affected by more than 400% in the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month 2013 provides education about Esophageal Cancer being one of the deadliest forms of cancer; usually patients do not discover they have the disease until its advanced stages and, in America, one person dies every 36 minutes as a result of Esophageal Cancer; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month 2013 increases awareness of the fact that Esophageal Cancer is commonly recognized in the United States in people who have persistent heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), yet individuals are often unaware that the cough, hoarse voice, sore throat or chest pain may be the signal that they have GERD, and is a good reason to discuss screening for Esophageal Cancer with their medical care professional; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month 2013 further informs the public that Esophageal Cancer can develop from GERD when stomach acid creates cellular change in the esophagus resulting in a precancerous condition called Barrett's Esophagus; this condition may increase the risk of developing Esophageal Cancer by 125-fold; if a patient seeks the early detection and treatment of Barrett's Esophagus with new, curative techniques available, development of Esophageal Cancer can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month 2013 is sponsored by a partnership called The Esophageal Cancer Action Network (ECAN), which is working to improve public awareness of the link between Heartburn and Cancer, and supports the progress of early detection and treatment of Esophageal Cancer;

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

"ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to learn more about the prevention, early detection and treatment strategies and resources available to combat Esophageal Cancer, and encourage citizens talk to their medical care professional about screening for the disease.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fifth day of March, 2013.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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