



*Proclamation
Presented*

**In Recognition of GEAR UP Week
September 23 - 29, 2013**

WHEREAS, GEAR UP Hawai'i is the local branch of the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP), a federally funded program designed to significantly increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP Hawai'i is a partnership of the Hawai'i State Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i System, as well as other government agencies and the nonprofit and private sectors, to provide information, encouragement, support, resources and services to help eliminate achievement gaps among groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP Hawai'i is a critical program of Hawai'i's P-20 Partnerships for Education, whose goal is to assist in leading education reform efforts to help meet the state's goal of 55% of working-age adults holding a two- or four-year degree by 2025; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP Hawai'i focuses on students from low-income and underserved communities who might be the first members of their families to attend college; GEAR UP Hawai'i currently serves more than 16,000 students each year across the Aloha State, providing assistance to students in grades seven through 12 and in their first year of post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP Hawai'i, in efforts to raise awareness and encourage more students to prepare for a post-secondary education, offers a number of services including supporting students in their academic preparation in high school, providing students with opportunities for early college options and increasing college access and financial aid information to students and families; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP Hawai'i, in conjunction with the Federal GEAR UP Program, will celebrate National GEAR UP Week during the week of September 23, 2013, to honor the signing into law of the GEAR UP program initiative on September 29, 1998, by President William Jefferson Clinton;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim September 23-29, 2013, as

“GEAR UP WEEK”

in Hawai'i and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in supporting GEAR UP Hawai'i and its goal of increasing the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

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