



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of Hawai'i Hepatitis Day

WHEREAS, Hawai'i Hepatitis Day calls attention to the "silent epidemic" of hepatitis by encouraging awareness and screening, especially since up to 75 percent of persons living with viral hepatitis do not know they are infected and therefore are not able to take actions to protect the health of themselves and others; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i Hepatitis Day raises awareness that Hawai'i has the highest rate of liver cancer in the United States, with the leading causes in Hawai'i being hepatitis B and C, infecting up to 50,000 people in Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i Hepatitis Day highlights that hepatitis B is the most common known cause of liver cancer, affecting an estimated 1-3 percent of persons living in Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i Hepatitis Day underlines that hepatitis C is the most common, chronic blood-borne disease in the United States and Hawai'i, affecting an estimated 4 million Americans, especially the "baby boomer" generation (born 1945-1965); and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i Hepatitis Day recognizes that Hep Free Hawai'i has formed a local community coalition of more than 60 partners and stakeholders dedicated to addressing the burden of viral hepatitis B and C on the various communities and populations in the Aloha State; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i Hepatitis Day underscores that increasing insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act, and the development of more safe and effective medications for combating hepatitis B and curing hepatitis C, have made the prevention, screening and treatment of both diseases increasingly accessible and effective; and

WHEREAS, July 28th has been designated by the World Health Organization as World Hepatitis Day to bring attention to the epidemics of hepatitis B and C worldwide by which 1 in 12 people worldwide have hepatitis B or C and to encourage people at-risk to be screened and/or vaccinated;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim July 28, 2014, as

"HAWAI'I HEPATITIS DAY"

in Hawai'i, and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in encouraging vaccination against hepatitis A and B, and urging those at-risk for hepatitis B and C to undergo screening for these liver diseases.

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-third day of July, 2014.


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i


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