



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of National Rural Health Day

WHEREAS, National Rural Health Day recognizes the third Thursday of every November as the day in which the State Office of Rural Health in all 50 states — including the State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, Family Health Services Division, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health — is encouraged to "Celebrate the Power of Rural" by honoring the selfless, community-minded "can do" spirit that prevails in rural America; and

WHEREAS, National Rural Health Day promotes rural communities as a place where everyone has a voice; people know each other, listen to and respect each other, and work together for the "greater good"; and

WHEREAS, National Rural Health reminds us that rural communities are fueled by the creative energy of their community leaders — everyday people willing to step forward, share and implement a vision, and drive changes that benefit their neighbors; and that rural doesn't necessarily mean "remote," and diverse economic cultural and recreational opportunities are abound in rural communities; and

WHEREAS, National Rural Health Day celebrates hospitals, clinics, centers and health care practices as the economic foundation of the community; they are typically the largest employers in the area, ensure a healthy workforce and address the shortage of healthcare providers, one of the greatest health and economic issues facing rural communities today; and

WHEREAS, National Rural Health Day educates the people of Hawai'i that, while the Affordable Care Act will make health care more affordable for rural communities, we also need to make sure that basic healthcare needs are made more accessible, recognizing that fragile infrastructures and geographic barriers must also be addressed, as they are unique to residents of each community in rural areas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim November 21, 2013, as

"NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the Hawai'i State Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, the Hawai'i State Rural Health Association, and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health for the critical role they have in helping rural communities address their healthcare needs.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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