Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of National Scoliosis Awareness Month

WHEREAS, scoliosis is an abnormal curvature of the spine that affects 2-3% of children and adults, or an estimated 7 million people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, scoliosis is most prevalent in seemingly-healthy 10 to 15-year-olds, with no known cause; as a result, an estimated one million scoliosis patients utilize health care annually, and approximately one out of every six children diagnosed will require active treatment that could involve surgery; and

WHEREAS, scoliosis can be detected through simple, non-invasive exams done during childhood, and with early detection, can be properly treated with minimal impact on individuals' lives and alleviating the worst effects of the condition; and

WHEREAS, scoliosis is a condition that will strike without regard to gender, race, age or economic status; and

WHEREAS, scoliosis is five times more likely to progress in females to a curve magnitude that requires treatment; and

WHEREAS, scoliosis can progress to cause chronic back pain, impact heart and lung function, and affect patients' self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, the Scoliosis Research Society, a non-profit, professional organization, comprised of physicians and allied health personnel dedicated to the optimal care of patients with spinal deformities, in conjunction with the National Scoliosis Foundation are working to raise awareness of scoliosis and the benefits of early screenings of scoliosis to help children, parents, adults and healthcare providers understand, recognize and treat the complexities of spinal deformities such as scoliosis; and

WHEREAS, the work of the National Scoliosis Foundation has resulted in the month of June being recognized as National Scoliosis Awareness Month by the United States Congress;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and **I, BRIAN SCHATZ, Lt. Governor** of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim June, 2012 as

"NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH"

in the State of Hawai'i, and encourage the citizens of the Aloha State to join us to become aware of the benefits of early screenings of scoliosis for Hawai'i's *keiki* and recognize the Scoliosis Research Society and the National Scoliosis Foundation for their efforts.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, Hawai'i, this thirtieth day of May, 2012.

Neil Abercrombie

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Brian Schatz

BRIAN SCHATZ
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i