



# *Proclamation* *Presented*

## **In Recognition of Family Caregivers Month**

**WHEREAS**, family caregivers strengthen our *ohana*, acting out of profound love, dedication and commitment in caring for their loved ones; in the words of the National Family Caregiving Association (NFCA), family caregiving is, "the act of assisting someone you care about who is chronically ill or disabled and who is no longer able to care for themselves"; and

**WHEREAS**, family caregivers are the backbone of the nation's long-term care system who provide daily assistance to loved ones to manage health and personal care, thus enabling their loved ones to live at home rather than at institutions; family caregivers are increasingly balancing work and caregiving responsibilities as nearly one in four workers aged 45 to 64 are caring for loved ones, providing an average of 20 hours per week of unpaid care to those who need assistance; according to the NFCA, family caregiving is, "the bedrock upon which this country's healthcare system depends"; and

**WHEREAS**, family caregivers care for *kūpuna* in approximately 247,000 of Hawai'i's households; family caregivers also include over 12,000 of Hawai'i's grandparents who are raising their grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, family caregivers will be recognized as invaluable assets to Hawai'i's *ohana* during National Family Caregivers Month; in her poem *Caregiver's Eyes*, Rose Marie Trospen asks of caregivers, "How do I tell them how much I care, how much I would do... if I could? These precious souls with hearts of gold;" in Hawai'i we can embrace the theme of National Family Caregivers Month, "*Family Caregivers Matter!*," and celebrate the contributions made to our community by these "precious souls with hearts of gold";

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

## **"FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH"**

in Hawai'i and encourage the people of the Aloha State to join us in paying tribute to our family caregivers for their devotion to improving the quality of life for their loved ones and for strengthening Hawai'i's communities.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this nineteenth day of November, 2012.

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

**BRIAN SCHATZ**  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i