



# *Proclamation* *Presented*

## **In Recognition of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Month**

**WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i** recognizes that since 1978, the State reaffirmed Hawaiian as one of its official languages; and

**WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i**, in 2005, through its endorsement of the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Persons, has confirmed its proactive stance toward Hawaiian language revitalization; and

**WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i** understands that recent estimates indicate that there are only 30,000 Hawaiian language speakers at varying levels of fluency; and that, until there are 100,000 speakers, the Hawaiian language will continue to be considered an "endangered" language; and

**WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i** recognizes that there is a great value in learning and speaking the Hawaiian language; and that a sound understanding of the language can shed light on a myriad of issues relating to Astronomy on Mauna Kea, Conservation for Environment, and Resource Management of Land & Water Sustainability, and a sound understanding of the language can also help to foster a stronger cultural identity that in turn can help with prisoner rehabilitation; and

**WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i** advocates for the use of the Hawaiian language as a means by which public agencies and private organizations can bridge relations between people of all backgrounds in order to work harmoniously within the community; and

**WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i's** revitalization of the Hawaiian language is essential to perpetuating Hawaiian culture; and toward that end the Hawaiian Language Working Group has been established;

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

## **"'ŌLELO HAWAI'I MONTH"**

in Hawai'i and encourage the citizens of the Aloha State to participate in this opportunity to promote and perpetuate Hawaiian language awareness.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fourteenth of January 2013.

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

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