



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of "White Cane Safety Day"

WHEREAS, "White Cane Safety Day" is a national observance in the United States; on October 6, 1964, a joint resolution of the United States Congress was signed into law, the resolution authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day"; in 2011 "White Cane Safety Day" was also named "Blind Americans Equality Day" by President Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, "White Cane Safety Day" reminds the public that the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services' Ho'opono Services for the Blind provides services to the blind and visually impaired statewide; in the last fiscal year, Ho'opono helped more than 500 blind and visually impaired citizens; and there are more than 3,500 blind and visually impaired individuals listed on the state's blind registry; and

WHEREAS, "White Cane Safety Day" in Hawai'i will be recognized with the 21st White Cane Walk on O'ahu, as well as similar White Cane Walks on the islands of Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i in Hilo and Kona; the purpose of the walks is to make the public aware of the white cane, and to raise awareness about the importance of the white cane to the independence and mobility of the blind or visually impaired; and

WHEREAS, "White Cane Safety Day" in Hawai'i will recognize the many service providers and supporters of the blind and visually impaired throughout O'ahu who participate and support the White Cane Walk each year, including:

- Blind Vendors 'Ohana;
- District 50 Lions Clubs;
- Hawai'i Association of the Blind;
- State Dept. of Human Services;
- City and County of Honolulu, Dept. of Transportation Services;
- State Dept. of Education, Teachers of the Visually Impaired; and
- National Federation of the Blind Hawai'i;
- O'ahu Transit Services;
- State Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland;
- State Representative John Mizuno;

WHEREAS, "White Cane Safety Day" will be held on October 15, 2013, and will further the vision of the Ho'opono Services for the Blind, which is "Blindness is not a barrier to success";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and **I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI**, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i do hereby proclaim October 15, 2013, as

"WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired, and a white cane as the symbol of independence, freedom, confidence, and empowerment for a blind person.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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