



Proclamation *Presented*

In Recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

WHEREAS, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was launched on June 15, 2006, by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations for the purpose of providing opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of the cultural, social and economic implications that can result from abuse and neglect of our elderly; and

WHEREAS, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day reminds us that each year, hundreds of thousands of older persons are abused, neglected, and exploited; elders in the United States lose an estimated \$2.6 billion or more annually as a result of elder financial abuse and exploitation, monies that they could utilize to pay for basic needs such as housing, food, and medical care; and

WHEREAS, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day raises awareness about elderly abuse occurring in households, businesses, care homes, and nursing facilities throughout our nation, yet only one in five of elderly abuse crimes are reported or discovered; and

WHEREAS, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day encourages Hawai'i's communities to recognize our *kupuna* as a vital part of the fabric of life in the Islands; we have a moral obligation to ensuring that they live their lives safely and with dignity; their well-being is important to the preservation of our history, culture, and genealogy; and

WHEREAS, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day calls attention to the fact that if we encourage our *kupuna* to stay active, assertive, and well informed, they can live independently and become strong advocates for other seniors who are underserved or disenfranchised; and

WHEREAS, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day will be acknowledged in Hawai'i by the Executive Office on Aging and other elderly service providers throughout our state on June 15, 2013;

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

"WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in paying tribute to our *kupuna* and remain vigilant in preventing elder abuse in our communities.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this thirty-first day of May, 2013.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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