



# *Proclamation* *Presented*

## **In Recognition of World Hepatitis Day**

**WHEREAS**, World Hepatitis Day is recognized on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of July each year by the World Health Organization; the date was chosen for World Hepatitis Day in honor of the birthday of Nobel Laureate Professor Baruch Samuel Blumberg, discoverer of the hepatitis B virus; and

**WHEREAS**, World Hepatitis Day has resulted in the public being made aware about hepatitis viruses A, B, C, D and E, which cause acute and chronic infection and inflammation of the liver; hepatitis B is the most commonly known cause of liver cancer in Hawai'i, and hepatitis C is the most common, chronic, blood-borne disease in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, World Hepatitis Day calls attention to specific actions being taken by the World Health Organization to address hepatitis, such as:

- strengthening prevention, screening, and control of viral hepatitis and its related diseases;
- increasing hepatitis B vaccine coverage and integration of the vaccine into national immunization programs; and
- coordinating a global response to hepatitis; and

**WHEREAS**, World Hepatitis Day has encouraged the Hawai'i State Department of Health to remind the public that most people do not develop any symptoms of hepatitis when they become infected, and often a person can remain free of symptoms for decades until they develop chronic liver disease; these factors have resulted in hepatitis becoming a "silent epidemic" which has placed a burden on our health-care system because of the high costs of treatment of liver cancer and liver failure from cirrhosis; and

**WHEREAS**, World Hepatitis Day will be acknowledged by the Hawai'i State Department of Health in collaboration with Hep Free Hawaii, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation on July 28, 2013, with the theme, "Three Wise Monkeys – See No Evil, Speak No Evil, Hear No Evil," which refers to an old proverb that is commonly used to highlight how people often deal with problems by refusing to acknowledge them, and that, in Hawai'i, hepatitis is still being largely ignored;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor** of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim July 28, 2013, as

## **"WORLD HEPATITIS DAY"**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in raising awareness about hepatitis viruses A, B, C, D and E, as well as supporting improvements for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment for people living with chronic viral hepatitis B and C.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this eighth day of July 2013.

  
NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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