



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of Craniofacial Acceptance Month

WHEREAS, Craniofacial Acceptance Month reminds us that there are many individuals in Hawai'i living with craniofacial differences; a craniofacial difference refers to an abnormality or disfigurement of the face and/or head which may be a result of a birth defect, disease or trauma; and

WHEREAS, Craniofacial Acceptance Month raises awareness of the difficult circumstances faced by individuals living with craniofacial differences, who often experience discrimination and social isolation due to unconventional appearances; the goal of Craniofacial Acceptance Month is to educate the public about craniofacial differences and widen the circle of acceptance of those with facial disfigurements; and

WHEREAS, Craniofacial Acceptance Month recognizes the families and support groups who dedicate themselves to improving the quality of life for individuals living with craniofacial differences; families who support those with craniofacial differences often endure emotional and financial difficulties due to ongoing and costly medical treatments; individuals with facial disfigurements may endure as many as thirty to forty operations before reaching adulthood; and

WHEREAS, Craniofacial Acceptance Month in Hawai'i, in conjunction with National Craniofacial Acceptance Month, reminds us that beyond the face is a heart; the Children's Craniofacial Association, an advocacy group for children and adults with craniofacial differences, "envisions a world where all people are accepted for who they are, not how they look;"

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

"CRANIOFACIAL ACCEPTANCE MONTH"

in Hawai'i and encourage the people of the Aloha State to demonstrate compassion and understanding toward people with craniofacial differences and treat those individuals with respect and *aloha*.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this thirtieth day of August, 2012.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

BRIAN SCHATZ
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i