



## *Proclamation* *Presented to*

### **Hawai'i Branch of the International Dyslexia Association**

**WHEREAS**, the International Dyslexia Association defines dyslexia as a "specific learning disability that is neurological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (HIDA), formed in 1984, is a dedicated group of educators, psychologists, physicians, individuals with dyslexia and parents who have dealt with learning disability issues within local public and private schools; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the mission of HIDA to "increase awareness of dyslexia in our community, provide support for individuals with dyslexia, families and educators, promote teacher training, and improve literacy for struggling readers"; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that nearly 20 percent of Hawai'i's residents, regardless of age, currently struggle with dyslexia; and

**WHEREAS**, children with dyslexia experience weak phonemic awareness, difficulties in reading, spelling and written expression, and low self-esteem, leading to a wide gap between intelligence and school achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, HIDA understands that dyslexia affects individuals throughout their lives and can greatly hinder a person from achieving his or her full potential, and encourages those individuals who may be living with undiagnosed dyslexia to seek professional assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, HIDA believes that individuals with dyslexia can successfully develop good language skills with assistance and an appropriate program of instruction; and

**WHEREAS**, HIDA believes that early identification and intervention are key to helping individuals with dyslexia achieve success in school and life;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2016 as**

## **"DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH"**

in Hawai'i and encourage the citizens of the Aloha State to join us in raising public awareness of dyslexia and to recognize individuals, families, educators and supporters who believe that everyone, given help with dyslexia, can succeed.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this first day of October 2016.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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