



# *Proclamation*

## *In Recognition of*

### **National Rural Health Day**

**WHEREAS**, National Rural Health Day was created to increase awareness of rural health-related issues and challenges and to recognize those who are working to improve the health and well-being of the millions of people living in America's rural communities; and

**WHEREAS**, rural communities throughout Hawai'i are wonderful places to live, work, play and learn, and are viable economic engines that contribute to the overall economy of Hawai'i; and

**WHEREAS**, the 427,773 citizens living in rural areas in Hawai'i exemplify the aloha spirit where people know, listen and respect each other and pull together for the benefit of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, meeting the unique healthcare needs of those citizens is a constant challenge as rural communities face accessibility issues, a lack of primary, behavioral and oral healthcare providers, an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of un- and underinsured citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural Hawai'i, where a small percentage of the population lives, but a large percentage of trauma occurs; and

**WHEREAS**, rural hospitals, clinics and centers, in addition to being sources of innovation and resourcefulness that reach beyond geographical boundaries to deliver quality care, are also typically the economic foundation of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, being a rural healthcare provider provides tremendous opportunities to offer comprehensive, compassionate, patient-centered and holistic care to patients;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim November 17, 2016 as**

## **"RURAL HEALTH DAY"**

in Hawai'i and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the Hawai'i Department of Health, Family Health Services Division, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, the Hawai'i State Rural Health Association, the Kaua'i Rural Health Association, the Moloka'i Rural Health Association, the Hawai'i Island Rural Health Association, the Ka'u Rural Health Community Association, and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health for the valuable services they provide to ensure the health and well-being of rural communities in Hawai'i.

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

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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