



# *Proclamation*

*In Recognition of*

## **Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, Hawai'i has a unique ecological history as a chain of volcanic islands populated by native species, many are found nowhere else in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawai'i's native species evolved in the absence of large land mammals and other species commonly found in continental habitats, making our local environment particularly sensitive to the introduction of species from other parts of the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i State Legislature has declared that "the silent invasion of Hawai'i by invasive species is the single greatest threat to Hawai'i's economy and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of Hawai'i's people"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council has prioritized efforts to increase awareness of the unique threats that invasive species pose to Hawai'i as an island state with a high number of rare native species; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawai'i currently faces a number of critical threats from invasive species including potential introduction of the brown tree snake, expanding populations of little fire ants, coqui frogs, and coconut rhinoceros beetles, micronia, albizzia, and many others; and

**WHEREAS**, preventing the spread of invasive species is a top priority of this administration; and

**WHEREAS**, the last week in February has been designated by the National Invasive Species Council as National Invasive Species Awareness Week;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim February 2018 as**

## **"HAWAI'I INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS MONTH"**

in Hawai'i, in conjunction with National Invasive Species Awareness Week, and ask that all citizens of the Aloha State join us in recognizing the importance of preventing and controlling harmful invasive species in order to protect our natural resources, our economy, and our way of life.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this 31st day of January 2018.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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