



## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, there are 100,000 babies born every year with craniofacial disorder, a disfiguring condition of the head and/or face; and

**WHEREAS**, craniofacial disorders result from abnormal skull or facial growth, improper development of skull and soft tissues of the head, birth defects, disease or trauma; and

**WHEREAS**, in Hawai'i, approximately 1 in every 500 babies is born with what is called an "orofacial anomaly," with cleft lip or cleft palate being the most common birth defect here; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to correct these defects, not just for visual appearance but because the condition affects basic functions such as eating, chewing, speech and breathing; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals with craniofacial disorders require complex and specialized health care from infancy to young adulthood, including extensive surgeries, sometimes as many as 30 to 40 surgeries before they reach adulthood; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals with facial differences often experience social discrimination, emotional isolation, and bullying and teasing in school, resulting in anxiety, depression and low self-esteem; and

**WHEREAS**, families with a member who has a craniofacial condition frequently face emotional and financial demands due to ongoing and expensive medical treatment;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, DOUGLAS S. CHIN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim September 2018 as**

## **"CRANIOFACIAL ACCEPTANCE MONTH"**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in raising awareness of craniofacial disorders, promoting social acceptance of others for who they are, not how they look, and empowering individuals and families affected by facial differences to live fulfilling lives.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-ninth day of August 2018.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i