



Proclamation

WHEREAS, suicide is a major public health problem in the State of Hawai'i, with one person dying by suicide every two days; and

WHEREAS, more than 90 percent of those who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition that often goes unrecognized and untreated; and

WHEREAS, warning signs of suicide include mental illness, drug or alcohol abuse, loss of interest in favorite activities, changes in mood or appearance, feelings of guilt, shame, or rejection, and rage or extreme agitation; and

WHEREAS, individuals who identify as LGBTQ and/or are racial and ethnic minorities are more likely to attempt suicide at some point in his/her life; and

WHEREAS, psychotherapies and medications have proven to be effective in treating depression and other mental illnesses that often lead to suicidal thoughts and suicide; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidal behavior can be eliminated through public awareness and education; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Task Force (PSHTF), a partnership between organizations, community groups, and state and local governments, has been developing strategies and monitoring the progress of statewide suicide prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Task Force developed a strategic plan to reduce suicides in Hawai'i by 25 percent by 2025 as requested by the 2016 legislature;

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

"SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in understanding the causes and warning signs of suicides, promoting suicide prevention awareness, and finding help for yourself and your loved ones.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fifth day of September 2018.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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