

Proclamation

WHEREAS, since 1965, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable, and comprehensive primary and preventive health services for underserved communities to improve healthcare outcomes and reduce healthcare costs; and

**WHEREAS,** Health Centers remain the country's largest primary care network, providing services at 1,400 health centers and over 11,000 delivery sites across the nation and serving as the healthcare home for over 28 million people, including low income, poverty or homeless populations; and

**WHEREAS**, Health Centers are on the front lines of major national healthcare crises such as the opioid epidemic, and in Hawai'i the 2018 volcanic eruption and the Zika virus, delivering crucial treatment to rural and urban populations and often providing the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in their communities; and

WHEREAS, these locally-operated health centers generate billions of dollars in some of the country's most economically deprived communities, are locally governed by patient-majority boards, and encourage users to engage in their own healthcare decisions; and

WHEREAS, during National Health Center Week, we recognize America's Health Centers which play a vital role in shaping the future of America's healthcare system and thank all the nearly 220,000 people, including board members, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists, dental hygienists, and behavioral health specialists, who are responsible for their continued success and growth;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor**, and **I, JOSHUA B. GREEN**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim August 4–10, 2019 as

## **"HEALTH CENTER WEEK"**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the important partnership between America's Health Centers and the communities they serve.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this first day of July 2019.

JOSHUA B. GREEN Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i

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