



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a chronic systemic disease that includes emphysema, chronic bronchitis and chronic asthma; and

**WHEREAS**, COPD causes long-term disability and more than 15 million adults are diagnosed with COPD; and

**WHEREAS**, COPD kills more than 120,000 Americans every year and the death rate has increased 163 percent since 1965; and

**WHEREAS**, in Hawai'i, there are over 45,000 adults diagnosed with COPD and many people go undiagnosed; and

**WHEREAS**, smoking and secondhand smoke remain major causes of COPD, and it is estimated that one in six COPD patients never smoked; and

**WHEREAS**, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1) is a genetic form of COPD that affects about 4 percent of those who have COPD but is underdiagnosed and undertreated; and

**WHEREAS**, in May 2017, the U.S. government released the first National COPD Action Plan, noting the huge health burden that COPD imposes on people; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Heart Lung Blood Institute began a "Learn More, Breathe Better" COPD awareness campaign to strengthen prevention efforts and improve diagnosis and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i COPD Coalition collaborates with many organizations to increase awareness of COPD by offering resources and providing information about lung health, free monthly support group meetings and an annual free education day; and

**WHEREAS**, November 20, 2019 is designated as World COPD Day and orange is the national color of COPD;

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

## **"COPD AND ALPHA-1 AWARENESS MONTH"**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to learn more about COPD and encourage those at risk to get tested and seek treatment.

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

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

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i