



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Islands are home to a unique set of native species, of which 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 mainland habitats, making our local environment particularly sensitive to the introduction of species from other parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, non-native plants, insects and animals become "invasive" when they are harmful to the environment, economy and/or human health; and

WHEREAS, the 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 critical threats that invasive species pose to Hawai'i as an island state with a high number of rare native species; and

WHEREAS, biosecurity is a top priority for the State of Hawai'i, and the incorporation of the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan into the Sustainable Hawai'i Initiative along with the Western Governors' Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative address the risks posed by invasive species;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, JOSHUA B. GREEN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim February 2020 as

"INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS MONTH"

in Hawai'i 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 twenty-second day of January 2020.



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



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i