



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO) is a rare autoimmune disorder that currently has no cure; and

WHEREAS, NMO attacks the central nervous system and can cause lifetime disability, including permanent blindness and paralysis; and

WHEREAS, symptoms include loss of vision, limb weakness, paralysis in the legs and arms, loss of bowel and bladder control, prolonged nausea, and shooting pain or tingling in the neck, back or abdomen; and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 4,000 people with NMO in the United States and a quarter of a million worldwide; and

WHEREAS, NMO is far more common in women and for people over 40 years of age; and

WHEREAS, NMO is a relapsing-remitting disease in which attacks can range from days, weeks, months or even years apart; and

WHEREAS, untreated NMO episodes or attacks can have devastating, irreversible effects, and misdiagnosis can worsen NMO symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the cause of NMO is still a mystery and there is only a single FDA-approved treatment for NMO; and

WHEREAS, the NMO community is dedicated to increasing awareness about this disease in order to promote research, improve proper diagnoses and patient care, and ultimately find a cure;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, DOUGLAS S. CHIN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim March 2020 as

“NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA AWARENESS MONTH”

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in learning more about NMO and raise awareness of NMO symptoms and the need for early diagnosis and treatment.

DONE at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this sixth day of March 2020.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i