



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed by their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday and the average age of diagnosis is 6 years old, compared to 66 years of age for adults diagnosed with cancer ; and

**WHEREAS**, 43 children per day or 15,780 children are diagnosed with cancer annually in the United States and approximately 40,000 children are on active treatment at any given time; and

**WHEREAS**, Whereas, 80% of childhood cancer patients are diagnosed late and with metastatic disease and two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will have chronic health conditions as a result of their treatment toxicity, with one quarter being classified as severe to life-threatening; and

**WHEREAS**, on average there has been a 0.6 percent increase in incidence per year since the mid 1970's resulting in an overall incidence increase of 24 percent over the last 40 years, and;

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of non-profit organizations at the local and national level, including the American Childhood Cancer Organization, are helping children with cancer and their families cope through educational, emotional and financial support and approximately one half of childhood cancer families rate the associated financial toxicity, due to out-of-pocket expenses, as considerable to severe; and

**WHEREAS**, in the last 20 years only four new drugs have been approved by the FDA to specifically treat childhood cancer, the National Cancer Institute recognizes the unique research needs of childhood cancer and the associated need for increased funding to carry this out; and

**WHEREAS**, as researchers and healthcare professionals work diligently, dedicating their expertise to treat and cure children with cancer, too many children are affected by this deadly disease and more must be done to raise awareness and find a cure.

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i**, do hereby proclaim September 2020 as

## **“CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me to observe Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and to support this cause that deeply impacts families in every community across our country.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this first day of September 2020.

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i