



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, latex allergy patients face a constant threat to their lives from exposure to natural rubber latex allergens; and

**WHEREAS**, natural rubber latex is found in over 40,000 products, including everyday items such as hair accessories, rubber bands, toys, balloons, bandages, school and office supplies, sports equipment, and healthcare and childcare products, resulting in a daily struggle for latex allergy patients to balance life and work with staying safe and healthy; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals with a latex allergy may also experience allergic symptoms when eating certain fruits, vegetables and nuts, including, banana, avocado, kiwi, tomato, carrot, and chestnut; and

**WHEREAS**, latex allergy is very complex and can occur at any age with unique reactions from a mild rash to impaired breathing and even anaphylaxis, a severe potentially life-threatening reaction that can occur within seconds or minutes of exposure; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no cure for latex allergy, but prevention of symptoms is possible with awareness and education; and

**WHEREAS**, the current COVID-19 pandemic has made it extremely difficult and challenging for those who suffer with a latex allergy to maneuver safely through daily life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Allergy & Asthma Network is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of latex allergy through education and provides support to individuals who have been diagnosed with a latex allergy; and

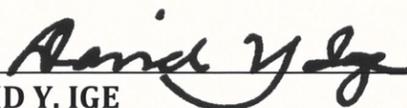
**WHEREAS**, the Latex Allergy Awareness Hawai'i Facebook page was created to spread latex allergy awareness and education across the United States through social media and co-sponsor a yearly student art contest for Latex Allergy Awareness Week;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i**, do hereby proclaim October 4–10, 2020 as

## **“LATEX ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK”**

in Hawai'i and encourage the people of the Aloha State to join me in recognizing and supporting the work of the Allergy & Asthma Network and Latex Allergy Awareness Hawai'i in raising awareness of latex allergies. With this year's theme, “Living with Latex Allergy in 2020,” citizens can learn about how to keep themselves and those with a latex allergy safe and healthy, especially during the current pandemic.

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

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i