



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO), also known as Devic's disease, is a rare autoimmune disorder that currently has no cure; 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 attacks the central nervous system and can cause lifetime disability, including permanent blindness and paralysis; and

**WHEREAS**, symptoms include loss of vision, weakness or 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**, 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 and incorrect treatments can worsen NMO symptoms; and

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

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor** of the **State of Hawai'i**, do hereby proclaim March 2021 as

## **“NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA AWARENESS MONTH”**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in raising awareness of NMO and the need for early diagnosis and treatment.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-sixth day of January 2021.

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i