



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive, fatal disease that attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, making even the simplest movements, such as breathing and speaking, eventually impossible; and

WHEREAS, ALS strikes people regardless of race, age, gender, or social status and has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure; and

WHEREAS, in the State of Hawai'i, there are 71 ALS patients and approximately 29 individuals are diagnosed with ALS each year; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are twice as likely to develop ALS than those who have not served in the military; and

WHEREAS, national and local ALS-related organizations in Hawai'i are coordinating efforts to provide care to ALS families; advocate for more funding for research, service, and public awareness; and create a residence with skilled nursing and technological care for those who cannot be cared for at home; and

WHEREAS, the recognition of ALS, understanding and support from our island communities do make a difference for those currently affected and those whose futures are overshadowed by the specter of ALS;

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

"ALS AWARENESS MONTH"

in Hawai'i and encourage citizens of the Aloha State to join me in increasing awareness of ALS, support the efforts to combat the disease, and honor the patients and families who are demonstrating extraordinary resilience and resourcefulness while living with ALS.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this nineteenth day of April 2021.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i