

Proclamation

WHEREAS, since 2005, the Children's Craniofacial Association's nationwide campaign for Craniofacial Acceptance Month brings a broader awareness of the needs and challenges of people affected by craniofacial differences; and

WHEREAS, craniofacial disorder refers to deformities that affect the head and facial bones which may be present at birth or result from disease or trauma; and

WHEREAS, cleft lip and/or palate, the most common craniofacial disorder, affects over 1,500 children in the United States alone and about 185,000 births worldwide annually; and

WHEREAS, due to the complexity of craniofacial disorders, the majority of affected children will often endure up to 30–40 surgeries before they reach adulthood; and

WHEREAS, families with a member who has a craniofacial condition often undergo emotional and financial strain due to demands resulting from ongoing and expensive medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the Children's Craniofacial Association strive to empower and give hope to individuals and families affected by craniofacial differences, while working towards the vision of a world where all people are accepted for who they are and not how they look;

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

"CRANIOFACIAL ACCEPTANCE MONTH"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in recognizing the challenges and courage of individuals with a craniofacial disorder and support the families and organizations working to bring better understanding and acceptance in our communities.

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