



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, suicide is one of the most tragic events a family and community can experience, and is the ninth-leading cause of deaths nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, in the State of Hawai'i there were 957 documented suicide deaths among state residents between 2016 and 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, 45% of adults and 46% of youth nationwide report a worsening of their mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a trend in the proportion of emergency department encounters with suicidal ideation across the State, with the greatest increase in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 90% of those who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition which often goes unrecognized; and

**WHEREAS**, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidal behavior can be eliminated through public awareness and education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Task Force is a partnership of state, public, and private agencies and community groups working collaboratively to provide leadership, develop strategies, coordinate activities, and monitor progress of suicide prevention efforts in the State of Hawai'i; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawai'i's multi-pronged suicide prevention strategy includes educating the public about resources for individuals at risk; training professionals and community members on how to identify, support and refer individuals at risk; and implementing policies that institutionalize suicide prevention training in clinical and school settings; and

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

## **“SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH”**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to help raise awareness of local and national mental health and suicide prevention resources available to our communities and encourage all those in need to seek the care and treatment necessary for a long and healthy life.

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

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i