



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Alice Augusta Ball was the first African American and first woman to receive a master's degree in chemistry at the College of Hawai'i (later University of Hawai'i); and

WHEREAS, Alice Augusta Ball was the first Black woman to become head of the department of chemistry at the College of Hawai'i and probably at any college in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Alice Augusta Ball was the first Black woman to be published twice in the Journal of the American Chemical Society, once before she earned her master's degree; and

WHEREAS, Alice Augusta Ball showed her commitment to public service by teaching compositional English to young women at the Hawai'i YWCA in the fall of 1914 and spring of 1915 while she was working on her thesis, teaching chemistry classes, and managing the chemistry department; and

WHEREAS, after being recruited by the U.S. Public Health Service to help work toward a treatment for Hansen's Disease (leprosy), Alice Augusta Ball made a fundamental scientific contribution by applying a new method of ethyl esterification to chaulmoogra oil so it could be effectively administered to patients by injection; and

WHEREAS, her "Ball Method" enabled the first successful treatment for Hansen's Disease (leprosy) and was used to treat patients at Kalaupapa, in Hawai'i, and around the world until the introduction of sulfone drugs; and

WHEREAS, Alice Ball Day in Hawai'i had been proclaimed in 2000 to be February 29 which falls during Black History Month, just after what is now Kalaupapa Month in Hawai'i, and just before the beginning of Women's History Month but is a day that occurs only once every four years;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim February 28, 2022 as

"ALICE AUGUSTA BALL DAY"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in paying tribute to this brilliant and inspiring young scientist who did so much for the people of Hawai'i and the world.

Done at the chaulmoogra tree at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-eighth day of February 2022.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i