



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the 'ōhi'a lehua tree is the most abundant native tree and comprises approximately 80 percent of the Hawaiian Islands' rainforests; and

WHEREAS, 'ōhi'a lehua trees are vital to our ecosystem, providing shelter and food for numerous native birds, insects, and other invertebrates, and helping to replenish our island aquifers which provide drinking and irrigation water for our communities; and

WHEREAS, 'ōhi'a lehua trees play a key role in watershed protection and water conservation by retaining water, preventing erosion and flooding; and

WHEREAS, the 'ōhi'a lehua trees have many culturally symbolic uses such as creating kapa, poi pounding boards, medicinal properties, and adorning hula dancers; and

WHEREAS, Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, a fungal disease that is killing healthy 'ōhi'a lehua trees on Hawai'i Island, Maui, Kaua'i and O'ahu, was first identified in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources, along with other agencies and non-government organizations, continue to fight against Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death by conducting helicopter surveys, tree samplings and seed banking; training conservationists and kama'āina on identifying infected trees; and engaging in public outreach on disease prevention and containment.

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2022 as

“‘ŌHI‘A LEHUA DAY”

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in working together to conserve, educate, and celebrate the importance of 'ōhi'a lehua trees; respect the value of 'ōhi'a in Native Hawaiian culture; and contribute to the sustainability of Hawai'i's unique environment.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-fifth day of April 2022.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i