



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Autism, or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the Centers for Disease Control reported that Autism affects approximately 1 in every 44 children in the United States, and is about four times more common among boys than girls; and

**WHEREAS**, 35.2% of children with Autism also have an intellectual disability; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly two-thirds of children with Autism between the ages of 6-15 have been bullied; and

**WHEREAS**, in Hawai'i, 10% of children ages 3-21 who receive special education services live with Autism; and

**WHEREAS**, Autism occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups; and

**WHEREAS**, children with Autism grow up to be adults with Autism who need continuous family and government support for health, educational, social and welfare supports, particularly if they are not treated early in life;

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

## **“AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH”**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in raising awareness of Autism and help build an inclusive society where individuals with Autism live fully through connection and acceptance.

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

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i