



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder (NMOSD) is a rare and relatively unknown autoimmune disease that currently has no cure; and

**WHEREAS**, NMOSD attacks the central nervous system, often including the spinal cord (myelitis), optic nerve (optic neuritis), and various parts of the brain, and can cause lifetime disabilities including blindness and paralysis; and

**WHEREAS**, the cause of NMOSD is still unknown, and while there are some approved treatments for patients with NMOSD which can alleviate symptoms and improve quality of life, a subset of patients cannot be treated using existing methods; and

**WHEREAS**, when mistaken for other diseases, certain treatments can fail to mitigate or even exacerbate NMOSD symptoms; and

**WHEREAS**, increasing awareness about NMOSD has caused diagnoses to rise, as doctors have become more likely to recognize the varying manifestations of the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the NMOSD community is dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about this disease among doctors, researchers, educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS**, increased awareness about NMOSD can lead to new research, improved patient care and outcomes, and ultimately finding a cure;

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

## **“NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA SPECTRUM DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH”**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in striving to raise awareness about NMOSD to promote the health and wellbeing of the people of Hawai'i.

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

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i