

# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, gastroschisis is a birth defect that causes the intestines, and sometimes other organs, such as the stomach and liver, to exit through a hole in the abdominal wall and extend outside of the infant's body; and

**WHEREAS**, because the intestines are not covered in a protective sac and are exposed to the amniotic fluid, they can become irritated, causing them to shorten, twist, or swell; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, 1 in 2,229 individuals are born with gastroschisis, and in Hawai'i, 1 in 1,587 individuals are born with the defect; and

**WHEREAS**, many Americans living with gastroschisis have serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected including failure to thrive, slow growth, short bowel syndrome, multiple organ transplants, and long-term feeding issues; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals and families affected by gastroschisis often experience problems, such as a sense of isolation, difficulty in obtaining an accurate and timely diagnosis, few treatment options, and problems related to accessing or being reimbursed for treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, the causes of gastroschisis remain largely unknown, and more research is needed; and

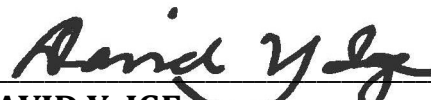
**WHEREAS**, Avery's Angels Gastroschisis Foundation (AAGF) is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to increasing research, raising awareness, and supporting patients and families affected by gastroschisis nationwide;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i**, do hereby proclaim July 30, 2022 as

## **"GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY"**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in helping to raise awareness about this birth defect and support and encourage families affected by gastroschisis.

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

  
DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i