



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a chronic, systemic disease which includes emphysema, chronic bronchitis and chronic asthma; and

**WHEREAS**, COPD is now the third leading killer in the United States and causes serious, long-term disability, and is the leading cause of hospital admission and readmission; and

**WHEREAS**, COPD is the only one of the top 10 killers that continues to increase (163% since 1965), whereas heart disease, cancer, and stroke have decreased approximately 65% during the same period of time; and

**WHEREAS**, smoking and secondhand smoke remain major causes of COPD, but it is estimated that one in six COPD patients never smoked; and

**WHEREAS**, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1) is a genetic form of COPD, which affects about 4 percent of those who have COPD, but it is under-diagnosed and under-treated due to lack of awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, testing for COPD is quick, simple and painless, and involves just a simple breathing test and testing for Alpha-1 involves a simple fingerstick blood test; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i COPD Coalition, Hawai'i Society for Respiratory Care, Hawai'i Thoracic Society and American Lung Association in Hawai'i all recognize COPD and Alpha-1 as very serious public health concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i COPD Coalition collaborates with many community organizations to increase awareness about COPD in Hawai'i, offering resources, providing individualized information about lung health and free monthly support group meetings, and hosting an annual free education day; and

**WHEREAS**, in conjunction with National COPD Month, November 16, 2022 is designated as World COPD Day and orange is the official color for COPD awareness;

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

## **“COPD AND ALPHA-1 AWARENESS MONTH”**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to learn more about COPD, wear orange to show your support for COPD awareness, and encourage those at risk to get tested and seek treatment.

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

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i