



Proclamation

WHEREAS, latex allergy is a unique health condition that affects up to 6% of the U.S. population. People who live with latex allergy face a constant threat to their lives from exposure to natural rubber latex allergens; and

WHEREAS, natural rubber latex is found in over 40,000 products, including everyday items such as hair accessories, rubber bands, toys, balloons, bandages, school and office supplies, sports equipment, and healthcare and childcare products, resulting in a daily struggle for latex allergy patients to balance life and work with staying safe and healthy; and

WHEREAS, individuals with a latex allergy may also experience allergic symptoms when eating certain fruits, vegetables and nuts, including, banana, avocado, kiwi, tomato, carrot, and chestnut; and

WHEREAS, latex allergy is very complex and can occur at any age with unique reactions from a mild rash to impaired breathing and even anaphylaxis, a severe potentially life-threatening reaction that can occur within seconds or minutes of exposure; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for latex allergy, but prevention of symptoms is possible with awareness and education; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has made it extremely difficult and challenging for those who suffer with a latex allergy to maneuver safely through daily life; and

WHEREAS, the Allergy & Asthma Network is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of latex allergy through education and providing support to individuals who have been diagnosed with a latex allergy; and

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim October 2–8, 2022 as

“LATEX ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK”

in Hawai'i and encourage the people of the Aloha State to join me in raising awareness about latex allergy, and supporting the continuous outreach, education, advocacy, and research efforts being made to help improve the quality of life for individuals living with latex allergy.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i