



Proclamation

WHEREAS, chronic respiratory diseases, which include Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), asthma, and other respiratory conditions such as occupational lung diseases, pulmonary fibrosis and hypertension continue to be a burden on the overall health of Americans; and

WHEREAS, about 4% of Hawai'i's residents reported having been told by a health care professional that they have COPD, the third leading cause of death in the United States and characterized by obstructed air flow and difficulty breathing; and

WHEREAS, about 31% of Native Hawaiians have the highest prevalence of asthma among Hawai'i's population and the most prevalent chronic disease among Native Hawaiian children, costing Hawai'i's economy approximately \$10.5 million in emergency department visits and more than \$24 million in hospitalizations each year; and

WHEREAS, respiratory therapists are important members of the healthcare team whose responsibilities include ensuring emergency airway management, overseeing the critical care of patients of all ages, testing and monitoring patients with sleep disorders, educating patients about their medications to improve acute and chronic lung conditions; and

WHEREAS, respiratory therapy includes pulmonary function tests that are used to diagnose lung diseases, in addition to delivering respiratory care to all groups of patients—ranging from newborns with under-developed lungs to adults requiring ventilatory support—in hospitals, emergency departments, sleep centers, post-acute, long-term care and homecare settings; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Society for Respiratory Care is a volunteer-based non-profit organization committed to the support of the respiratory care practitioner and the improvement of the pulmonary health of the people of Hawai'i;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim October 23–29, 2022 as

“RESPIRATORY CARE WEEK”

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in raising awareness about respiratory health and recognize that the respiratory care profession is a vital piece to the entire health care system.

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



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i