



Proclamation

WHEREAS, rural communities throughout Hawai'i embody the true meaning of the Aloha Spirit and are wonderful places to live, work, play and learn; and

WHEREAS, there are over 450,000 citizens of Hawai'i who reside in rural areas, have a strong sense of community and work hard to contribute to the overall economy of our state; and

WHEREAS, rural hospitals, clinics and centers reach beyond geographical boundaries as a source of innovation and resourcefulness and are typically the economic foundation of their communities; and

WHEREAS, while a small percentage of Hawai'i's population lives in rural areas, a large percentage of trauma occurs in these places which make ambulatory and emergency medical services especially critical; and

WHEREAS, rural communities face accessibility issues, lack of adequate healthcare providers, an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of uninsured and under-insured citizens; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i's rural health care providers contribute to creating a 21st-century health system with improved access, treatment, and affordability for all of Hawai'i residents on all islands; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Department of Health - Family Health Services Division, Primary Care and Rural Health Office, Hawai'i State Rural Health Association, Hawai'i Island Rural Health Association, Ka'u Rural Health Community Association, Kaua'i Rural Health Association, Moloka'i Rural Health Community Association, and National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health have been instrumental in the promotion of quality rural health care in communities across Hawai'i;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, of the **State of Hawai'i**, do hereby proclaim November 17, 2022 as

“RURAL HEALTH DAY”

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the importance of rural health care providers who work to improve the health and well-being of people who live in rural communities in Hawai'i.

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



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i