



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, manta rays, known to be highly intelligent, are the largest rays in the world and can reach an impressive 23 feet across their wingspans and weigh up to 5,300 pounds; and

**WHEREAS**, there are two extant species of manta ray which differ in their appearance and their preferred habitat—the larger species is the giant oceanic manta ray and the smaller species is the reef manta ray; and

**WHEREAS**, the giant manta ray can be found in waters right around the equator and reef manta ray can be found in coastal areas in tropical and subtropical waters mostly in the Indo-Pacific; and

**WHEREAS**, manta rays can live up to 40 years and typically give birth to only one pup every two to three years; and

**WHEREAS**, the demand for the gills of manta rays, marine debris/pollution, vessel strike, entanglement, and recreational fishing interactions mark humans as the biggest threat to manta rays; and

**WHEREAS**, World Manta Day was created to celebrate manta rays and to raise awareness of the threats they face; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 17, 2022, World Manta Day, Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa will be holding its first annual World Manta Day Festival, alongside its nonprofit partner, Manta Pacific Research Foundation to provide the opportunity to learn more about manta rays;

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

## **“WORLD MANTA DAY”**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in celebrating manta rays, helping to raise awareness of the threats that these beautiful ocean giants face, and supporting the conservation efforts being made to help protect this endangered species.

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

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i