



Proclamation

WHEREAS, suicide, one of the most tragic events a family and community can experience, is the ninth-leading cause of deaths nationwide; and

WHEREAS, in the State of Hawai'i, there were 959 documented suicide deaths among state residents between 2015 and 2019; and

WHEREAS, more than 90% of those who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition which often goes unrecognized; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidal behavior can be eliminated through public awareness and education; and

WHEREAS, the Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Task Force is a partnership of state, public, and private agencies and community groups working collaboratively to provide leadership, develop strategies, coordinate activities, and monitor progress of suicide prevention efforts in the State of Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i's multi-faceted suicide prevention strategy includes education for community and professional audiences on how to identify, support, and refer individuals at risk; strengthening intervention and treatment services; supporting those who have been impacted by suicide loss; conducting research to improve services and supports; and implementing policies that institutionalize suicide prevention efforts in all settings;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the **State of Hawai'i**, do hereby proclaim September 2020 as

“SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH”

in Hawai'i, and ask the people of the Aloha State to help raise awareness of local and national mental health and suicide prevention resources available to our communities, and encourage all those in need to seek the care and treatment necessary for mental wellness and long-term health.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this third day of August 2020.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i