



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Department of Health, Family Health Services Division reminds us that "Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders" is an umbrella term that describes the range of effects that can occur in a baby whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Department of Health, Family Health Services Division recognizes that prenatal exposure to alcohol can cause birth defects, intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, attention deficits, and behavior disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Department of Health, Family Health Services Division acknowledges that numerous studies show individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) often have numerous social disorders such as disrupted school experience, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, mental health and substance abuse issues, unemployment, and criminal behavior; FASD costs the United States an estimated \$5.4 billion annually in direct and indirect costs; and

WHEREAS, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 60 percent of women in the United States between the ages of 18 and 44 reported alcohol use in the past month; 33 percent reported binge drinking (four or more drinks in one sitting) in the same time period; approximately 10.6 percent of pregnant women in the United States reported alcohol use; and 3.7 percent of pregnant women engaged in binge drinking; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Department of Health, Family Health Services Division reminds us that the effects of FASD are 100 percent preventable if women abstain from drinking during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Department of Health, Family Health Services Division, in partnership with the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Task Force, joins the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other committed agencies in working to raise awareness statewide to promote open and honest communication about the effects of FASD and encourage and empower our communities to implement activities to prevent FASD;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2013, as

"FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in supporting the Hawai'i State Department of Health, Family Health Services Division and its efforts in promoting awareness and understanding about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this third day of September 2013.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i