



COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

WAYNETTE CABRAL
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 5, 2015

15-040

CELEBRATING OCTOBER 2015 AS DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

HONOLULU – Governor David Y. Ige and Lt. Governor Shan S. Tsutsui have declared October as “Disability Employment Awareness Month” in Hawaii and encourage the citizens of the Aloha State to renew our commitment to embrace the talents and skills that individuals with disabilities bring to our workplaces and communities.

As part of this month’s celebration, the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities in partnership with Hawaii’s Department of Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is displaying pictures of individuals with disabilities employed around the state of Hawaii in the chamber lobby area of the State Capitol.

Disability Employment Awareness Month is held in Hawaii each October to coincide with the National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a nationwide campaign raising awareness about disability employment issues and celebrating the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities; the theme for 2015 is "My Disability Is One Part of Who I Am".

"This year's theme encapsulates the important message that people with disabilities are just that — people," said Jennifer Sheehy, acting assistant secretary of labor for disability employment policy. "And like all people, we are the sum of many parts, including our work experiences. Disability is an important perspective we bring to the table, but, of course, it's not the only one."

Disability Employment Awareness Month supports the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in increasing opportunities for individuals with disabilities in Hawaii to engage in competitive integrated employment, for those facing barriers to employment, and invests in the important connection between education and career preparation.

###



Proclamation

Presented to

Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities and Hawai'i Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month is held in Hawai'i each October to coincide with the National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a nationwide campaign raising awareness about disability employment issues and celebrating the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities; the theme for 2015 is "My Disability Is One Part of Who I Am"; and

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month reminds us that in 2014 the United States Department of Labor reported the official Labor Force Participation for people with disabilities was 17.1 percent, as compared to a 64 percent employment rate for people without disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month supports the "Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act" in increasing opportunities for individuals with disabilities in Hawai'i to engage in competitive integrated employment, for those facing barriers to employment, and invests in the important connection between education and career preparation; and

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month encourages employers from the public and private sector to see the whole person, promoting and supporting employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, because at work, it is what people can do that matters; and

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month celebrates the success of our state in cultivating a more inclusive workforce, as we continue our efforts to build a society where everyone who works has a chance to get ahead;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim October, 2015 as

"DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH"

in Hawai'i and encourage the citizens of the Aloha State to renew our commitment to embrace the talents and skills that individuals with disabilities bring to our workplaces and communities.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this twenty-fifth day of September 2015.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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