Proclamation

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the mental health of our youth and families and brought it to the forefront of our conversations; and

WHEREAS, one in five youth experiences a mental health challenge; and

WHEREAS, the mental health of a child or adolescent is just as important as their physical health, and acceptance of an individual's mental health struggle can reduce fear, worry, blame, and shame experienced by their families and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, talking about mental health with youth can destigmatize their view of mental health challenges and increase the likelihood for those who are struggling to seek help and access resources; and

WHEREAS, children and adolescents with mental health challenges and their families benefit from access to timely resources, services, and supports that are family-driven, youth-guided, and culturally appropriate; and

WHEREAS, efforts to improve children's mental health can help foster acceptance and end prejudice and discrimination against those suffering from mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, it is important to address serious challenges faced by youth; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Mental Health Acceptance Planning Group, co-led by the Hawai'i Department of Health's Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division and Epic 'Ohana Youth Partners and composed of community organizations dedicated to serving children and families, provides statewide leadership for events promoting awareness of youth mental health;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the **State of Hawai'i,** do hereby proclaim May 1–7, 2022 as

"CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH ACCEPTANCE WEEK"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in raising awareness about children's mental health and accepting that mental health challenges must be met with understanding and support to help children and their families seek the resources and services they need to help improve their general well-being and quality of life.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i