

# *Proclamation*

## *In Recognition of*

## **He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve Day**

**WHEREAS**, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) is a partnership program between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and coastal states that protects more than 1.3 million acres of coastal and estuarine habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, NOAA provides funding, national guidance, and technical assistance for national estuarine research reserves (NERR), while the state manages each site on a daily basis with input from local partners; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 19, 2017, NOAA announced the designation of He'eia as the 29<sup>th</sup> NERR that will be managed in partnership with the State of Hawai'i through the University of Hawai'i's Institute of Marine Biology; and

**WHEREAS**, the He'eia NERR is located in the Kāne'ohe Bay estuary on the windward side of O'ahu and includes significant cultural and historic resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the He'eia NERR is 1,385 acres that encompasses upland forests and grasslands, wetlands, fishpond, reefs, and seagrass beds, as well as the largest sheltered body of water in the Hawaiian Island chain, Kāne'ohe Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, the He'eia NERR designation is unique, as it was driven by the community, including the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Ko'olau Foundation, Paepae O He'eia, and Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, and supporting state agencies, including the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, which would benefit from greater collaboration and coordination amongst themselves but also benefit from being part of the larger NERRS; and

**WHEREAS**, the He'eia NERR is unique to the NERRS because it presents an opportunity to integrate the traditional ahupua'a principles with contemporary scientific NERRS principles to sustainably manage the He'eia estuary; and

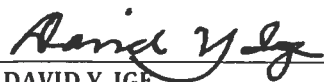
**WHEREAS**, the He'eia NERR not only provides a model for future generations in Hawai'i but also contributes to the NERRS nationally and globally as it addresses some of the challenging issues related to climate change on island communities;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2017 as**

## **“HE'EIA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE DAY”**

in Hawai'i and encourage the people of the Aloha State to help protect and restore the valuable cultural and natural resources of the He'eia estuary.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-first day of August 2017.

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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