



Proclamation

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day, proclaimed by the World Health Organization (WHO), to raise awareness and prevent the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and to honor those affected and lost to the epidemic; and

WHEREAS, 28 million people worldwide are living with HIV and 690,000 worldwide died from AIDS as of the end of 2019, and while great progress has been made in treatment for those living with HIV or AIDS, and new prevention strategies can prevent new infections, there is still no proven cure for HIV and AIDS; and

WHEREAS, according to the latest surveillance data from the Hawai'i State Department of Health and Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center, there are more than 700 people currently diagnosed with HIV in the City and County of Honolulu, 2,300 people diagnosed with HIV across the state, and approximately 400 people living with HIV in Hawai'i are not receiving HIV care; and

WHEREAS, the WHO notes that the COVID-19 pandemic "has illustrated how health is interlinked with other critical issues, such as reducing inequality, human rights, gender equality, social protection and economic growth;" and

WHEREAS, people living with HIV often experience loneliness and isolation, and it is critical that they have access to and receive appropriate medical care and support, and barriers such as stigma, discrimination, homelessness, behavioral health and substance use continue to hinder successful HIV prevention, testing and treatment; and

WHEREAS, for people who are at high risk of exposure to HIV, the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis medication prevents transmission of the HIV if taken consistently; and

WHEREAS, the "Hawai'i to Zero" campaign aims to end the HIV epidemic with zero new HIV infections, zero death related to HIV, and Zero HIV-related stigma; and

WHEREAS, the theme of World AIDS Day 2020 in Hawai'i is "Resilience," reflecting the ability of the LGBTQ community and allies to respond to the onset of HIV/AIDS in the early 1980s up through the present day, creating organizations that care for the sick, work to prevent new HIV infections, and advocate for policy responses to combat the disease; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KIRK CALDWELL, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2020, to be

WORLD AIDS DAY

to encourage residents to join in the fight against HIV and AIDS and Rock the Ribbon Together to show support for those affected by the disease, and to extend great appreciation to all medical providers, public health agencies, and community service providers for collaboratively delivering vital HIV and AIDS services.

Done this 1st day of December, 2020,
in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Caldwell", is written over a horizontal line.

KIRK CALDWELL

