



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Hawai'i's 51 public libraries and two book mobiles on six islands are vital hubs that are open to all and connect our communities to information, ideas, shared stories, and each other; and

**WHEREAS**, in many rural communities, especially on the neighbor islands, public libraries are the only community resource available; and

**WHEREAS**, libraries have long served as trusted institutions for all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic status; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawai'i State Public Library System staff guide community members to free resources and programs that support early literacy, education, small businesses and entrepreneurs, job-seeking, connection to government resources, and the life of the mind through new stories, worlds and ideas; and

**WHEREAS**, as Hawai'i's communities and economy shift out of the pandemic, public libraries are more important than ever in preparing community members to achieve personal success, including adequate and fulfilling employment, and in supporting community growth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i State Public Library System embraces its continuing role to ensure equitable access to technology, the internet, and opportunities to learn digital literacy skills for our community's success in the digital world; and

**WHEREAS**, libraries strive to develop and maintain programs, services and collections that are as diverse as the populations they serve and ensure equity of access for all; and

**WHEREAS**, libraries adapt to the ever-changing needs of their communities, continually expanding their collections, services, and partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, Hawai'i's libraries, librarians, and library workers are joining library patrons, supporters and advocates across the nation to celebrate National Library Week;

**THEREFORE I, Josh Green, M.D., Governor of the State of Hawai'i**, do hereby proclaim April 23-29, 2023 as

## **"LIBRARY WEEK"**

in Hawai'i and encourage all residents of the Aloha State to visit their local library to explore the wealth of resources available for free with just a library card.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this sixth day of April 2023.

Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawai'i