



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition's annual health campaign is designed to educate healthcare professionals, government leaders, community agencies, patients, and caregivers on the negative consequences of malnutrition, or inadequate or unbalanced nutrition; and

WHEREAS, malnourished patients are associated with higher medical costs, longer hospital stays, and increased mortality; and

WHEREAS, in Hawai'i, the malnutrition data from the Hawai'i Foodbank show that 30% of households experience food insecurity, with 11% having low food security and 19% facing very low food security; and

WHEREAS, malnutrition is prevalent in many groups, including vulnerable populations such as hospitalized patients and minority populations, with older adults having the highest rate of malnutrition compared to other groups; and

WHEREAS, experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of health, and that good nutrition is vital to keeping people healthy and out of healthcare institutions; and

WHEREAS, over 2 million hospital stays nationwide involve malnutrition per year, and each day approximately 15,000 hospital patients with malnutrition go undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, malnutrition patients in the country have two times longer hospital stays compared to patients with no malnutrition; and the 30-day hospital readmission rate is 2.2 times higher than patients without malnutrition; and

NOW, THEREFORE I, Josh Green, M.D., Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim September 16 through 20, 2024, as

"MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in raising awareness about the importance of addressing malnutrition through effective screening, assessment, diagnosis, and intervention, which are vital for improving our community's well-being.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this twelfth day of September 2024.

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