HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS WORLD'S AIDS DAY IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

WHEREAS, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which kills or damages immune system cells. Without the ability to protect itself, the body becomes vulnerable to infections and diseases; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health, approximately 42,000,000 people around the world are living with HIV/AIDS and 40,000 new infections occur each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, estimates that around half of those who become infected with HIV are infected before the age of twenty-five and die before they reach age thirty-five; and

WHEREAS, currently in Hawaii, there are an estimated 2,600 to 2,900 people with HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, despite efforts to raise awareness and improve treatment, there is still no cure for HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, first observed on December 1, 1988, World AIDS Day is a time to remember those who lost their lives to HIV/AIDS and to reflect upon the importance of providing compassion, support, and medical assistance to individuals afflicted with the disease; and

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day affirms the State's commitment to education, to improve treatment, to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, and to reduce and eliminate discrimination, stigma, and prejudice against people who are fighting this disease; and

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day allows the State to honor both those afflicted with the disease as well as those individuals

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and organizations who work selflessly to promote disease prevention and improved treatment for HIV/AIDS; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that the Governor is requested to proclaim the first day of December of every year, beginning on December 1, 2010, as World AIDS Day in the State of Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Directors of Health and Human Services, the Superintendent of Education, the Chair of the Board of Education, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, the President of the Life Foundation Hawaii, the President of Pride at Work Hawaii, and the Co-chairs of Equality Hawaii.

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