



## RESOLUTION

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URGING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS  
DISABILITY HISTORY AWARENESS MONTH.

WHEREAS, an estimated 51.2 million Americans, or approximately 18% of the total population, have disabilities and in the state of Hawaii, one in five people has a disability; and

WHEREAS, in 1945, Congress enacted legislation declaring the first week in October of each year, "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week"; however, in 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Congress expanded the week to the entire month of October and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month"; and

WHEREAS, the concept of "Disability History Awareness" recognizes the disabled community's accomplishments, gifts, talents, and inherent civil and human rights, and promotes the respectful treatment of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, at least 23 States, including New York, California, Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Massachusetts, Montana, Virginia and Washington State have introduced and passed legislation to encourage and promote the concept of "Disability History Awareness" to emphasize the importance for students and the general public to learn more about their respective disability community and honor the contributions made by disabled people to contemporary American society; and

WHEREAS, the state of Hawaii is traditionally a diverse society that embraces and celebrates all of its different communities; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Hawaii State Legislature adopted House Resolution 70, HD2, which declared the month of October as "Travelers with Disabilities Month" to promote tolerance and acceptance of travelers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in March 2013, linguistic researchers at the University of Hawaii announced the significant historical discovery of Hawaiian Pidgin Sign Language or Old Hawaii Sign Language (HSL) and that it was used as the primary method to communicate with the deaf population in the state of Hawaii as early as the 1820s; and



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WHEREAS, the discovery of HSL is the first time a new language, either spoken or signed, has been discovered in the United States since the 1930s; and

WHEREAS, linguistic researchers believe that HSL may have predated American Sign Language (ASL) as the primary means by which to communicate with and between deaf people, but is now almost extinct and used by only a few elderly persons who are bilingual in both HSL and ASL; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that promoting awareness of disability history serves to further enhance the already federally designated "National Disability Employment Awareness Month" and the state legislatively declared, "Travelers with Disabilities Month" during the month of October by increasing awareness of all the contributions made by disabled individuals to our community at-large; and

WHEREAS, the Council further finds that by recognizing the month of October as the state of Hawaii's "Disability History and Awareness Month" all of Hawaii's citizenry, both with and without disabilities, will learn more about Hawaii's rich history of achievements made by and to support Hawaii's disability community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu, that it requests the Governor to declare the month of October as "Disability History and Awareness Month", in conjunction with the federally designated "National Disability Employment Awareness Month" and the state legislatively declared "Travelers with Disabilities Month," to further increase public awareness and respect for people with disabilities in the state of Hawaii; and



**RESOLUTION**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Governor, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives, the State Representative for District 15, the State Representative for District 18, the State Representative for District 24, the Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Director of the Department of Education, the Director of the Department of Health, the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development, the Director of the Department of Human Services, the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relation, the Director of the Department of Transportation, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Oahu Transit Services, Inc.

INTRODUCED BY:

*C. H. [Signature]* (BR)

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

**AUG 14 2013**

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII  
CERTIFICATE

**RESOLUTION 13-196**

Introduced: 08/14/13 By: IKAIKA ANDERSON (BR)

Committee: COUNCIL

Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS DISABILITY HISTORY AWARENESS MONTH.

VERSIONS:	COMMITTEE REPORTS:	MEETINGS: MINUTES & VIDEOS	COMMUNICATIONS/ TESTIMONIES (If Any):
<a href="#">RES13-196</a>		<a href="#">VIDEOS – Click Here</a>	<a href="#">Click Here</a>

Voting Legend: \* = Aye w/Reservations

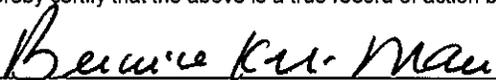
CC-165 PINE – RE-REFERRAL OF RESOLUTION 13-196 FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE TO COUNCIL FLOOR.

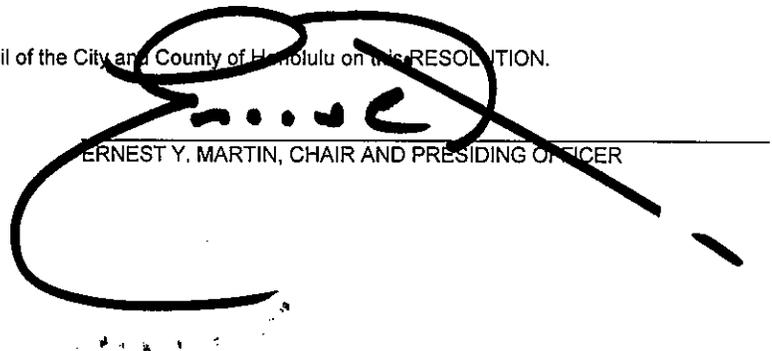
09/11/13 COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 13-196 WAS ADOPTED.

9 AYES: ANDERSON, CHANG, FUKUNAGA, HARIMOTO, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MARTIN, MENOR, PINE.

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.

  
BERNICE K. N. MAU, CITY CLERK

  
ERNEST Y. MARTIN, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER