

Proclamation

WHEREAS, an ostomy is surgery that allows for drainage when a person has lost the normal function of digestive or urinary systems due to birth defects, disease injury or other disorders; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1,000,000 Americans have had an ostomy, with approximately 130,000 procedures performed each year; and

WHEREAS, ostomy surgery can be prescribed at any age and does not lower life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, largely through the efforts of the United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc., (UOAA) and more than 325 affiliated support groups, those needing these surgeries are becoming more aware of the opportunities for education, mutual aid, and support that are of benefit to them and their families; and

WHEREAS, increased public understanding of ostomy will help dispel the fear of this surgery; and

WHEREAS, public education and awareness is vital to ensure those living with an ostomy face no discrimination and are accepted as normal, healthy individuals; and

WHEREAS, both government and the private sectors are deeply committed to the proper care and advancement of knowledge about bowel and urinary diversion surgery as a result of birth defects, disease, injury, and other digestive disorders; and

WHEREAS, to increase public acceptance of ostomy surgery and to emphasize the need for continued educational efforts and mutual aid support, the UOAA is recognizing October 4, 2014, as "Ostomy Awareness Day,"

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KIRK CALDWELL, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, do hereby proclaim October 4, 2014, to be

OSTOMY AWARENESS DAY

to recognize the importance of ostomy surgery and to provide public education and support for those who need this medical assistance.

Done this 4th day of October, 2014, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

KIRK CALDWELL