



Proclamation

WHEREAS, freedom of speech is a constitutional right guaranteed to all Americans and protected by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights in the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances"; and

WHEREAS, free speech allows for free press, debate, and an open exchange of ideas, and is a means through which citizens can call for accountability, encourage creativity, while respecting diversity and courage; and

WHEREAS, free speech and accessible media allow individuals to have their voices heard, ensure inclusion for all artists, and enable citizens to make informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, Free Speech Week, which takes place during the third week of October annually to raise awareness of the value of free speech and the press in the United States, is a non-partisan, commemorative event to celebrate freedom of speech in our democracy; and

WHEREAS, a wide variety of groups and organizations across the nation are invited to join in promoting Free Speech Week, and among participants are schools, colleges and universities, as well as individuals; and

WHEREAS, in the City and County of Honolulu, 'Ōlelo Community Media engages the community, from *keiki* to *kupuna*, by offering equipment, facilities and services with the ability to empower voices freely through innovative media without the costs and censorship at any of six Media Service Centers on O'ahu; and

WHEREAS, 'Ōlelo Community Media and other public, educational, and governmental access organizations engage with a diverse group of individuals by exercising their freedom of speech during this special week, and all year long as free speech is ingrained in their mission,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, do hereby proclaim October 17 – 23, 2022, to be

FREE SPEECH WEEK

to encourage all O'ahu residents to acknowledge and appreciate that freedom of speech and of the press are rights that all Americans share, and to extend sincere appreciation to 'Ōlelo Community Media for continuing its mission to strengthen our island voices.



Done this 17th day of October, 2022,
in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

Rick Blangiardi

RICK BLANGIARDI