



Special Message from
Governor David Y. Ige
In Recognition of
Free Speech Week

October 17-23, 2022



Freedom of speech is a fundamental constitutional and human right, and the cornerstone of our society. During this 17th annual Free Speech Week, I ask the people of Hawai'i to celebrate, utilize, and raise awareness of the freedoms of speech and press which we share.

The five freedoms of the First Amendment represent key democratic principles. Maintaining a free press, active deliberation, and the open exchange of ideas foster respect for artistic creativity and intellectual courage. Ensuring access to media encourages everyone to make their voice heard and promotes accountability, diversity of opinion, and free, informed decision-making. Free Speech Week is an inclusive celebration for all Americans, and a wide variety of organizations, schools and individuals nationwide will be holding events devoted to free speech to mark the week. Of course, protecting our freedom is an important civic duty for Americans every day of the year.

Mahalo to 'Ōlelo Community Media for providing the necessary resources for Hawai'i's people, from keiki to kūpuna, to express their voices free of charge. From its Youth Xchange Student Video Competition to its Media Service Centers on O'ahu, 'Ōlelo has been pivotal in promoting the active use of free speech, and in doing so has strengthened our democracy.

With warmest regards,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i