

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

Proclamation

WHEREAS *Journey through the Universe* promotes sustained education in the critical areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and is a celebration of exploration and the joys of learning. in 2022 the program celebrates its 18th anniversary on Hawai'i Island, where it has engaged over 60,000 students in the past decade in STEM education in local schools; and

WHEREAS, developed by the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSE), *Journey through the Universe* is a national science education initiative that engages entire communities - students, teachers, families, and the public - using educational programs in the earth and space sciences, and space exploration, to inspire and educate; and

WHEREAS the Department of Education Hilo/Waiākea Complex and Gemini Observatory began the partnership in 2004, agreeing to work together and share Maunakea astronomy with students, all the while recognizing and acknowledging the very significant cultural role and reverence that this site has to the Native Hawaiian community; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade students, teachers and the community-at-large have benefited from *Journey Through the Universe*, which has grown to include dozens of local and national research and educational institutions, as well as local businesses, government agencies, and individuals; and

WHEREAS the County of Hawai'i fully encourages and supports the educators who perpetuate learning and exploration of our universe in order to excite our youth about the future, and the astronomers and engineers who instill enthusiasm and understanding about the diverse careers available at observatories and within the field of astronomy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MITCHELL D. ROTH, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim February 28 - March 4, 2022, as

JOURNEY THROUGH THE UNIVERSE WEEK

in the County of Hawai'i and encourage all citizens to foster curiosity and wonder about our Universe and the cutting-edge research and technology that allows us to understand our place in the cosmos.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused The Seal of the County of Hawai'i to be affixed. Done this 28th day of February 2022, in Hilo, Hawai'i.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mitchell D. Roth'.

MITCHELL D. ROTH
MAYOR