WHEREAS, metastatic breast cancer has affected the lives of thousands of families across Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, cancer is considered to be metastatic when it spreads beyond its site of origin and affects other organs and systems including the bones, lungs, liver, and brain; and

WHEREAS, while public awareness of and attention to early detection and routine diagnosis of breast cancer has caused tremendous progress in effective treatment and increased survival rates over the past 30 years, no cure exists for metastatic breast cancer and those affected by it must bear the burden of continual treatment with the goal of preserving quality of life for as long as possible; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1,140 women in Hawaii were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2015; and

WHEREAS, approximately six percent of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer are metastatic at the time of diagnosis and approximately 30 percent of cases will become metastatic or recurrent; and

WHEREAS, although breast cancer occurs across all socioeconomic groups, women of color experience higher rates of mortality despite experiencing lower rates of occurrence than white women; and

WHEREAS, while there have been advances in treatment for metastatic breast cancer, their benefit has so far been contained to only a small subset of specific cancer types
leaving the majority of patients and their families to bear the enormous burden of treatment costs, family stress, and loss; and

WHEREAS, while metastatic breast cancer remains incurable, there is reason to be hopeful as extensive research is underway and support and resources are available to patients and their families through medical providers, in the community, and online; and

WHEREAS, more research is still needed, particularly on the personal and social burdens of metastatic breast cancer, so that new and more effective treatments may be developed; and

WHEREAS, the State will continue to support policies that make diagnosis, treatment, and support resources accessible to all Hawaii residents; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the House of Representatives concurring, that October 13, 2017, is designated as Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health, and the respective Mayors of the City and County of Honolulu and the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

OFFERED BY: