



## *Special Message from Governor David Y. Ige*

*In Recognition of*

### The 2015 IAU General Assembly

August 3-14, 2015



*Aloha!* On behalf of the people of the State of Hawai'i, I send my warmest greetings to all members of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) attending the **2015 IAU General Assembly**.

Since 1919, the IAU has been the international authority for assigning designations to celestial bodies and the surface features on them. Representing the vast majority of professional astronomers, its mission is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy through international cooperation.

I am pleased that the IAU has chosen to hold this year's assembly in Hawai'i, where interest in astronomy is deeply entrenched in our island heritage. The heavens played a central role in ancient Hawaiian culture, and early Polynesians relied on their knowledge of the stars to successfully navigate thousands of miles across the open ocean. Today, Hawai'i continues to be at the forefront of astronomical studies through the observatories at Maunakea on the island of Hawai'i and Haleakalā on Maui.

This triennial assembly promises to be an exciting and informative event, featuring more than 3,000 professional astronomers, and offering Symposia and Focus Meetings that cover a broad range of astronomical topics.

*Mahalo* to the IAU, American Astronomical Society, Institute for Astronomy - University of Hawai'i and many event organizers for contributing to this worthy event. Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and successful meeting.

Sincerely,

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor, State of Hawai'i