



Proclamation

The people of Hawai'i place a high value on our children and are committed to ensuring they grow up in safe and healthy settings. Childhood is an important and formative time, and everyone deserves the opportunity to realize their full potential in life.

Child abuse and neglect are tragedies that undermine the development of our youth and cross all socio-economic boundaries. Each year, nearly 6,000 suspected cases of child abuse are reported in the State of Hawai'i.

All citizens should be aware of the harmful effects of child abuse, and everyone has a responsibility to be involved in its prevention. It is important to encourage parents and caregivers to raise their children in a stable and loving environment, and provide assistance to them in that effort. With increased public awareness, involvement, knowledge and support, effective child abuse prevention can succeed through partnerships created among schools, social service and law enforcement agencies, civic organizations and the business community.

Founded as a chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America in 1982, Prevent Child Abuse Hawai'i (PCAHI) has been dedicated to the prevention of all forms of child abuse and neglect for 25 years. Through education, public recognition and advocacy PCAHI seeks to promote family environments where children are valued and loved, and provide parents with the support and skills they need to effectively perform their roles.

Since 1983, *Child Abuse Prevention Month* has been observed across the country each April. This year, the month's theme is "Promoting Healthy Families in Your Community." Individuals and organizations across the nation will participate in events to raise awareness about the importance of strengthening families through five factors: *Nurturing and attachment, Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development, Parental resilience, Social connections and Concrete support for parents.*

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **April 2007**, as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Hawai'i, and urge all citizens to become involved in supporting efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-ninth day of March 2007.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i