



# Proclamation

Organ and tissue donation are much-needed services and important acts of compassion. Every day, nearly 77 people across the nation receive a lifesaving organ transplant, yet 19 others die waiting for a donation. Currently, more than 94,000 Americans are waiting for the gift of life.

Each organ and tissue donor can save or improve the lives of as many as 50 people. Kidneys, hearts, livers and pancreases are regularly recovered for lifesaving transplants. Bones can provide grafts for patients facing the loss of a limb, and sight can be restored through corneal transplantation.

The Hawai'i Coalition on Donation, whose members include many respected organizations within the community, is dedicated to promoting public awareness and increasing the number of organ, tissue and eye donors in Hawai'i. At any given time, approximately 378 Hawai'i residents are awaiting heart, liver, kidney or pancreas transplants, and another 14 await cornea transplants.

Hawai'i's *aloha spirit* tradition of caring and showing compassion to others has led many people to become organ donors during the past 40 years, as the gifts of life, sight and healing are among the most generous gifts one person can share with another. The state's first organ transplant happened in 1969, when a 43-year old man received a kidney. Today, education, legislative support, partnerships with local hospitals and public visibility have helped increase organ donations.

Since 2003, *National Donate Life Month* has been observed across the nation in order to celebrate the generosity of those who have saved lives by becoming organ, tissue, marrow and blood donors, and to encourage more Americans to follow their fine example.

**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

## **NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH**

in Hawai'i, and encourage our citizens to acknowledge the good works of those who make successful transplantation possible, especially donors and their families.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fourth day of April 2007.

Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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