



Proclamation

An estimated 42 million men, women and children currently live with HIV/AIDS worldwide. In the United States, one million people are impacted by the disease and nearly a quarter of them are unaware they are infected. Despite extensive improvements in treatment, there is still no cure and nearly three million people worldwide die from complications annually.

During the past 23 years, more than 2,900 cases of AIDS were diagnosed and reported to the Hawai'i Department of Health, including an additional 89 cases this year, and the number continues to rise. It is also estimated that upwards of 3,200 residents of Hawai'i are currently infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and many of them have not yet been tested.

One of the largest and most successful global days of awareness annually, The United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) observes *World AIDS Day* on December 1. *World AIDS Day* is an opportunity to educate our communities about the impact of HIV/AIDS, provide compassion for others and discuss prevention measures. Outreach efforts during *World AIDS Day* include education to address the need for testing and to reduce and eliminate discrimination, stigmas and prejudices against people who are living with HIV/AIDS and their families. There are additional discussions worldwide about ethical considerations, patient care advocacy and awareness of efforts to stop the spread of the disease.

In Hawai'i, *World AIDS Day* events will be held throughout our islands and include HIV testing and counseling, film screenings, information panels, candlelight vigils and displays of the AIDS Memorial Quilt panels. The STD/AIDS Prevention Branch of the Hawai'i Department of Health will also present the *2007 Suzanne Richmond-Crum Award* to Ruth Antone, program director for Gregory House Programs, a Honolulu-based agency providing critical housing-related services to HIV-positive clients, in recognition of Ruth's more than 20 years of committed work in the area of HIV/AIDS related services.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **December 1, 2007**, as

WORLD AIDS DAY

in Hawai'i, and urge all of our citizens to reaffirm their commitment to combat HIV/AIDS and to support those both affected and effected by this disease.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this thirtieth day of November 2007.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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