



Proclamation

Substance abuse continues to have devastating effects on individuals and families in Hawai'i and threatens the health and future of our youth and communities. Preventing substance abuse and promoting healthy family lifestyles are cost-effective strategies that help prevent negative consequences such as impaired health, child abuse and neglect, violence and crime.

Although progress has been made to alleviate Hawai'i's substance abuse crisis, including the "Ice Epidemic," recent statistics show there is much work left to be done. The 2006 Hawai'i High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area report revealed that crystal methamphetamine continues to be the most significant drug threat in Hawai'i, followed by marijuana and cocaine. According to the most recent Hawai'i Student Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use Study, by the time high school students become seniors, 47 percent will have tried an illicit drug, 45 percent will have tried cigarettes and 73 percent will have tried alcohol. The latest monthly prevalence reports of alcohol use document that four percent of Hawai'i sixth-graders, 15 percent of eighth-graders, 27 percent of tenth-graders and 36 percent of twelfth-graders have consumed alcohol within the previous 30-day period.

Since 1987, the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai'i has aimed to reduce and prevent drug abuse in Hawai'i through awareness, education and action. Each February, the Coalition sponsors *Drug-Free Hawai'i Awareness Month*, in partnership with the government, business, law enforcement, education, health and human services and community groups. The month features events and activities to educate Hawai'i residents about the effects of substance abuse in the home, workplace, schools and community while promoting healthy lifestyles.

This year, the theme of *Drug-Free Hawai'i Awareness Month 2007* is *My Choice: Drug Free and Proud*. On February 25, the Coalition will host the 7th annual Hawaiian Style Backyard Jam at Kapi'olani Bandstand and Park, which will feature a free concert and resource booths for substance abuse prevention information.

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

DRUG-FREE HAWAI'I AWARENESS MONTH

in Hawai'i, and encourage all of our citizens to make substance abuse prevention a priority in their neighborhoods.

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

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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