



# Proclamation

Fathers play an integral role in the lives of their children and families. Good fathering throughout a son's or daughter's infancy, childhood and adolescence helps develop emotional security and has many other positive psychological effects. These benefits spill over into their families, communities and our state, as good fathering helps produce fine citizens.

Studies have shown children with fathers who are actively involved and "emotionally present" in their lives grow up to be more empathetic, compassionate adults than those whose fathers are silent or absent. Moreover, children and teenagers whose fathers make time to be involved in regular family meals and activities tend to possess higher self-esteem and better social skills, while exhibiting fewer high-risk behaviors, including fewer teen pregnancies and a lower risk of engaging in alcohol or drug abuse.

Fathers are also a critical influence in their children's academic performance, and in preparing them for future success. Girls and boys of all ages whose fathers help them with homework, attend parent-teacher conferences and volunteer for school activities are more likely to enjoy school, have meaningful friendships with their peers, earn good grades, participate in extracurricular activities and later achieve career goals.

The Hawai'i Coalition for Dads, a network of public and private organizations and individuals, seeks to increase community awareness of the importance of fathers and support policies and programs that promote involved, nurturing and responsible fatherhood. Each June, the Coalition celebrates *Father's Month* in order to highlight the critical role fathers play in their families and our state.

This year, the Hawai'i Coalition for Dads will again sponsor its *CELEBRATING FATHERS* event at the Windward Mall on June 16, which will feature a Father-Child Look-Alike Contest, interactive activities, "Golden Dads" kits, useful parenting information and other educational material.

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

## FATHER'S MONTH

in Hawai'i, and urge all of our citizens to join with the Hawai'i Coalition for Dads in celebrating and promoting the importance of fathers in our families and communities.

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

Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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