



Proclamation

Social workers are compassionate professionals who help to guide individuals, families and communities through complex issues and choices. They are dedicated to improving the lives of the society's most vulnerable citizens, connecting individuals, families and communities to available resources.

Hawai'i's social workers play a valuable role in improving the lives of our residents, including families in crisis, abused and neglected children, at-risk youth, adults transitioning from welfare to the workforce, persons with disabilities and medically frail kupuna. Social workers are employed throughout the state by private companies and our Department of Human Services and Department of Health.

Since 1984, the National Association of Social Workers has observed *Professional Social Work Month* in March in order to celebrate the important work social workers contribute to society and advocate for issues that affect social workers and their clients.

This year's national theme, *Hope and Health: Help Starts Here*, emphasizes the essential contributions social workers make to the healthcare system, as they collaborate closely with doctors, nurses and other medical professionals as an integral part of a multidisciplinary team. Hawai'i has a particular need for social workers who specialize in this field as the state has one of the oldest populations in the nation.

The people of Hawai'i benefit greatly from the contributions of social work professionals, including members of the Hawai'i Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. On March 23, this organization will recognize the exceptional contributions of its members at the 2007 Social Worker of the Year Awards Luncheon at the Treetops Restaurant at Paradise Park.

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

PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

in Hawai'i, and thank Hawai'i's social workers for their many contributions to our communities.

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

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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