



Proclamation

Transparency in government is essential to democracy. The public endows its elected officials with tremendous authority and responsibility, and citizens deserve to have the knowledge necessary to become involved in their government and hold representatives accountable for their actions. Conversely, elected officials must earn and maintain the public's trust if they are to effectively serve their constituents.

Hawai'i's state motto, *Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono*, states that righteousness is what perpetuates the life of the land, and this should be at the heart of state governance. Laws have been enacted to ensure the people of Hawai'i can trust their leaders' integrity, giving them the right to know how their government is functioning and enabling them to make their voices heard. These laws include the public records law, the Uniform Information Practices Act and the open meetings law, which is also called the "Sunshine Law."

Beginning in Florida five years ago, *Sunshine Week* has been observed by Americans in many states. The week is designed to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. The American Society of Newspaper Editors made *Sunshine Week* a national initiative in 2005, aiming to enlighten and empower Americans to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and communities stronger.

Locally, the State of Hawai'i's Office of Information Practices will host a public workshop on Hawai'i's open meeting and public records laws at the State Capitol on March 15. This meeting will provide an overview of the state's "sunshine laws" and practical information on participating in meetings of government boards and obtaining public records.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **March 11 through 17, 2007**, as

SUNSHINE WEEK

in Hawai'i, and encourage all of our citizens to exercise their "right to know" and become actively involved in their government at the municipal, state and federal levels.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Lingle', written over a horizontal line.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James R. Aiona, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

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