



Proclamation

Hurricanes are among the most dramatic and damaging meteorological events that can occur in our islands. The impact of these storms can be felt long after they pass, as they may destroy homes, businesses and critical infrastructure essential to our way of life. Moreover, hurricanes often cause serious injury or cost the lives of those caught in the storm.

Over the years, hurricanes have cost the State of Hawai'i more money than any other natural disaster. Since 1959, approximately 62 hurricanes, 67 tropical storms and 61 tropical depressions have occurred in the Central Pacific. Many remember Hurricane Iniki in 1992, which produced winds in excess of 140 miles per hour and left a trail of devastation with long-term social and economic impacts.

In recent years, advances in how we predict and track these storms have improved preparedness and saved lives, but our citizens and businesses must still be prepared. Our residents can greatly improve their ability to survive and recover from the impact of a hurricane by developing a family disaster plan, creating a disaster supply kit and staying aware of current weather situations.

While the threat hurricanes pose to lives and property cannot be eliminated, cooperation among citizens and federal, state and local officials can reduce the dangers and provide a more effective response to these storms. The State of Hawai'i remains vigilant in its commitment to remain prepared and to coordinate an effective emergency response whenever the next hurricane strikes.

To this end, State and County Civil Defense agencies met last week with NOAA's National Weather Service, along with their partners, at the annual statewide realistic hurricane exercise designed to prepare all agencies to effectively handle and respond to the challenges associated with the upcoming hurricane season, which begins June 1 and runs through November 30, 2007.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **May 20 through 26, 2007**, as

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK

in Hawai'i, and strongly encourage our citizens to use this week to make preparations to protect themselves and our communities in the event of a hurricane.

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

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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