



# Proclamation

Innovation is the dynamic process whereby individuals, companies or industries create new and improved processes, services and products. Innovation leads to economic diversification, as new companies and industries are developed, as well as sustainability, as communities improve standards of living while using fewer natural resources.

In Hawai'i, innovation has been part of the history of our islands for centuries. Early Polynesian voyagers navigated thousands of miles of open ocean, and later immigrants from all parts of the world transformed our islands into a Pacific trading hub. Hawai'i's earliest inhabitants found new ways of farming, fishing and creating one of the world's most desired destinations.

Today, Hawai'i's continued prosperity and ability to preserve its quality of life depend on reducing the state's over-reliance on land development as the chief economic driver and meeting the new challenges of the global, technology-based economy. To accomplish this, the state must develop human potential and the capacity to innovate, which will lead to new, higher-paying jobs and enable our companies and residents to compete effectively in the global economy.

To this end, the Hawai'i Innovation Initiative seeks to cultivate and foster innovation throughout the economy, in both new and existing industries. The initiative features five interrelated components: *Innovation in Education*, *Innovation in the Economy*, *Innovation in Workforce Development*, *Innovation in Linking Hawai'i to the Global Economy* and *Innovation in State Government*. These proposals aim to equip Hawai'i's students and workforce with the skills needed for high technology jobs, and position Hawai'i as a leader in the Asia-Pacific region.

As part of the National Governors Association's *Innovation America* initiative, states throughout our nation will observe *Innovation Week* from May 14 through 18. Locally, events will be held with business leaders, teachers and students across the state to encourage innovation in the economy and contextual science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in our schools. On May 14, a robotics rally will be held at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa featuring Dean Kamen, the founder of *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), to promote the 2008 *FIRST* Robotics Competition Hawai'i Regional.

**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE**, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **May 14 through 18, 2007**, as

## INNOVATION WEEK

in Hawai'i, and encourage our students and workforce to develop heightened analytical and problem-solving skills needed for the 21st century global economy.

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

Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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