

Proclamation

Strokes or “brain attacks” are the third leading cause of death in the United States, killing nearly 160,000 people every year. On average, an American experiences a stroke every 45 seconds.

Strokes are also the leading cause of adult disability. There are more than five million stroke survivors in the United States, and two-thirds of them live with moderate to severe impairment. The United States spends more than \$52 billion annually on the direct and indirect costs of strokes.

Public awareness of the risks and warning signs of a stroke is essential to prevention and early treatment. Emergency treatment of a stroke can save lives, reduce disability and even possibly reverse the stroke’s effects, yet more than one-third of Americans cannot identify a single symptom of a stroke. These symptoms include sudden trouble talking, walking or seeing; paralysis, usually on one side of the body; and sudden severe headache with no known cause. More than half a million strokes can be prevented each year, yet many Americans do not discuss their stroke risks with their doctors or healthcare providers.

The National Stroke Association has introduced a stroke recognition system to help the public identify stroke symptoms using the acronym *F.A.S.T.*, which stands for *Face, Arms, Speech, and Time*. Numbness in an individual’s face and arms, as well as slurred speech are the first signs of stroke, and timeliness is very important when identifying one, as brain cells are being damaged during the attack.

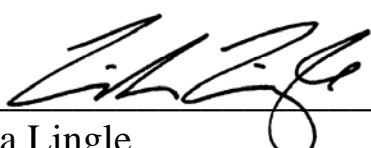
Each year, the National Stroke Association observes *National Stroke Awareness Month* to encourage individuals to take charge of their health by being aware of the symptoms of a stroke, asking their doctors about stroke risks and adopting healthy lifestyle habits to reduce the threat of stroke.


THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. “DUKE” AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the state of Hawai‘i, do hereby proclaim **May 2007** as

NATIONAL STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

in Hawai‘i, and urge our citizens to ask their doctors about the prevention and warning signs of a stroke.

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


Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai‘i


James R. “Duke” Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai‘i