



Proclamation

The State of Hawai'i is blessed with many outstanding older citizens, who play an important role in their families and communities. We in Hawai'i hold our *kupuna* in high esteem, cherish their wisdom, enjoy the stories they tell of past times and are thankful for the fine examples they continue to set.

According to the latest U.S. Census, more than 230,000 Hawai'i residents are 60 years of age or older, representing more than 18 percent of our population. This figure represents an 11 percent increase from the previous census, taken four years prior. Our *kupuna* population will likely continue to grow, following national demographic patterns, especially as the Baby Boomer Generation approaches this stage of life.

It is important for our state to recognize this trend and plan accordingly to ensure these citizens live comfortably and with dignity. To this end, the State Department of Health's Executive Office on Aging, with input from the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, advocates and provides resources for many of our *kupuna*.

Since 1963, our nation has celebrated *Older Americans Month* each May in order to honor the contributions they have made and continue to make to our nation. This year's theme, *Making Choices for a Healthier Future* emphasizes the importance of encouraging our *kupuna* to live healthy lifestyles. Efforts to this end will require informed individual choices, as well as strong partnerships between government agencies, healthcare providers, families and other community groups in order to strengthen long-term, affordable quality healthcare.

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

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

in Hawai'i, and encourage our citizens to honor our *kupuna* and support organizations and activities which help them make good choices for a healthy and rewarding future.

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

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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