



# Proclamation

There are an estimated 54 million individuals with disabilities in the United States, including 230,000 Hawai'i residents.

However, less than a third of those who can work actually are employed because of barriers to living independently, along with challenges in the workplace resulting from issues with communication, transportation, access, housing, skill assessment, career planning, training and a variety of health issues, including mental health supports. Through funding for new technologies and innovative resources, we are changing old ways of thinking to provide opportunities for all citizens.

The State of Hawai'i is committed to reducing the unemployment rate of persons with disabilities and supports the important work of the U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy, which regards people with disabilities as an untapped source of capable workers who can provide valued customer service. By focusing on career development through a comprehensive and holistic, yet individualized process, employers in Hawai'i have to understand that barriers presented by a disabling condition vary from person to person and often require multiple services prior to a person with a disability entering the workforce.

By recognizing the contributions of Americans with disabilities and encouraging all citizens to ensure equal opportunity in the workforce, the U.S. Congress, by joint resolution approved August 11, 1945, as amended (36 U.S.C. 121), designates October of each year as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

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

## **DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH**

in Hawai'i, and thank all employers for removing barriers and providing opportunities for disabled workers to be successful in their careers.

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

Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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