



Proclamation

Domestic violence continues to be a significant issue for our state and nation, so we must remain vigilant in our fight against this form of abuse.

Domestic violence can be defined as the use of force or threat in order to achieve and maintain control over others who are in intimate relationships. It is estimated that anywhere from 25 to 31 percent of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. Between three to 10 million children witness that abuse each year.

While this issue has long been considered a “woman’s issue,” the Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief estimates that 85 percent of domestic abuse is directed toward women, while 15 percent of the victims are men. It is time we recognize that all people – wives, husbands, girlfriends, boyfriends, children, family members, friends and employers – are affected by domestic violence.

Many organizations, such as Pu‘uhonua Family Peace Center in Honolulu and the Hawai‘i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and more than 20 other local organizations, work within our communities toward a common goal of ending domestic violence in our islands. In preparation for a month-long awareness campaign, these organizations join with survivors and concerned citizens on each of our islands to plan events that will share information on safety and resources within our entire community.

Planned activities consist of marches against domestic violence and annual candlelight vigils held to honor victims of domestic violence and recognize the survivors.

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

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the Aloha State, and urge our citizens to become more pro-active in ending the cycle of domestic abuse.

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

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai‘i

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