



# Proclamation

Fires in homes are one of the most common disaster threats Americans face each year. Often, when a fire starts in a residence, occupants may have less than two minutes to escape.

While Hawai'i's brave firefighters are well trained and equipped for these situations, residents can assist firefighting efforts by preparing for unexpected events in their own homes. Because every second counts during a fire, families can help achieve the best possible outcome by practicing emergency escape plans from their home. It is important for everyone to be familiar with escape routes, especially adults over the age of 55, who are often most at risk during a fire.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) research found that people who develop and practice home escape plans are more likely to survive a fire, yet a recent Red Cross poll shows that only 26 percent of Americans actually undertake such a task. Installing fire alarms throughout a house and testing them every month is an excellent start in planning, though creating and testing escape plans is imperative. The NFPA actively encourages Hawaii residents to practice escaping a crisis through the "Great American Fire Drill," where families choose a night to draw up and test ways to leave their home during a fire.

Each October, the NFPA observes *Fire Prevention Week* to promote fire safety education to reduce the occurrence of fires in homes, thereby preventing the resulting property damage and loss of life. This year's theme, "Practice Your Escape Plan!" serves as a reminder about the need to practice your escape route to reduce the amount of loss from fires Hawai'i residents face.

**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.,** Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **October 7 – 13, 2007, as**

## **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

in Hawai'i, and encourage all of our citizens to evaluate the level of fire safety provided in their homes, create and practice escape plans and responsible behavior in their residences throughout their lives.

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

Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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