



# Proclamation

More than 28 million children in the United States have parents who work outside the home, and 14.3 million children have no place to go after school. Many afterschool programs across the country face funding shortfalls so severe they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights.

*Lights on Afterschool*, the national celebration of afterschool programs will be held this year on October 18, 2007. It will promote the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities.

The State of Hawai'i provides significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults. Currently, the Hawai'i Department of Education partners with the YWCA of Honolulu to provide afterschool care for more than 7,000 children in grades K-6 through the "A+ Program" at 47 public schools on O'ahu. The Boys & Girls Clubs of O'ahu also provides after school programming and outreach to more than 15,000 children.

The residents of Hawai'i stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- **Provide** safe, challenging and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional physical and academic skills;
- **Support** working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends;
- **Build** stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults; and
- **Engage** families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children.

The State of Hawai'i is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy.

**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE**, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **October 18, 2007**, as

## LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY

in Hawai'i, and encourage our citizens to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights remain on and the doors stay open for all of our children after school.

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

Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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