



Proclamation

For centuries, the cane was used primarily as a tool to assist with walking, but during the twentieth century, it took on a new role, alerting people to the fact that an individual may be blind.

President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed the first National White Cane Safety Day on October 15, 1964, and since then, it has been observed annually throughout our nation.

The long white cane is recognized throughout the United States and many other countries as a symbol of safety and independence for blind or visually impaired people, who are conducting their daily activities within the sighted communities.

Every state has “white cane laws” requiring motorists to yield the right of way in order to protect blind or visually impaired people. These safety measures help these citizens to be active and productive members of society by protecting them as they travel to and from their destinations.

In observance of National White Cane Safety Day, two events are planned. The Kaua‘i Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind in Hawai‘i and the Department of Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will host an awareness walk on October 4, 2007, at the Kokui Grove Shopping Center on Kaua‘i. Ho‘opono Services for the Blind, a branch of the Department of Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, will host its annual White Cane Safety Awareness Day Walk on October 12, 2007, through downtown Honolulu.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. “DUKE” AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, do hereby proclaim October 12, 2007, as

WHITE CANE SAFETY AWARENESS DAY

in Hawai‘i, and encourage our citizens to be more aware of and alert to the use of the white cane as an instrument of safety and independence for the blind and visually impaired.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i, this twenty-ninth day of September 2007.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai‘i

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