



Proclamation

As the new school year begins for college students throughout our state, it is important for everyone to become acquainted with fire safety practices within their residences.

Sadly, more than 109 people have died in student housing fires in more than 28 states throughout our nation since 2000. Three quarters of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies, where the majority of American college students live during the school year.

Several of these tragic, fatal fires have taken place in buildings where fire safety systems had been compromised or disabled by the occupants. These systems, including smoke detectors, automatic fire alarms and sprinkler systems, are designed to protect residents by providing the necessary early warning to them and the local fire department in the event of a fire, as well as by controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages. Two other major factors involved in many campus fires are a careless disposal of smoking materials and alcohol consumption.

Each September, the Center for Campus Fire Safety observes *National Campus Fire Safety Month* to use fire safety education to reduce the occurrence of fires in college residences, thereby preventing the resulting property damage and loss of life. Informing students and their families about fire-safe behavior is important to ensuring the safety of all members of our college communities, both during their college years and beyond.

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

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

in Hawai'i, and encourage administrators, students and parents to evaluate the level of fire safety provided in both on- and off- campus housing, and urge our students to practice responsible behavior in their residences during the school year and throughout their lives.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this thirty-first day of August 2007.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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