

Proclamation

The Nēnē, or Hawaiian Goose, has long endured a struggle against extinction. In the 1940s, the birds nearly went extinct because no laws existed to protect these exquisite creatures that were hunted during winter breeding seasons, when they are most vulnerable.

When the majestic Nēnē became Hawai'i's State Bird in 1957, conservationists launched extensive rescue efforts to save the world's rarest goose species. They started breeding the birds in captivity and working to preserve the remainder of the declining population. While early preservation programs for the captive-bred birds proved quite difficult, recent efforts have been more successful. There exists a small, but stable, population of the Hawaiian Goose on the islands of Kaua'i and Moloka'i. The Big Island is the only place where Nēnē birds are still found in the wild and even those are on the decline from poor nutrition and threats from non-native plants and animals. In addition, the Peregrine Fund is raising Nēnē in captivity at the Maui Bird Conservation Center and the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center on the Big Island.

The Nēnē Preservation and Awareness Society of Hawai'i, the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife are working together to sponsor public awareness campaigns and education. Posters featuring the Nēnē will be placed across the state featuring images from the "Goose that Laid the Golden Egg" school contest to create awareness about the difficulties facing the beloved state bird.

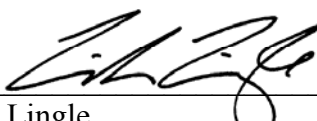
The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the Nēnē Preservation and Awareness Society of Hawai'i will celebrate September 27 as Nēnē Awareness Day.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor, do hereby proclaim September 27, 2007, as

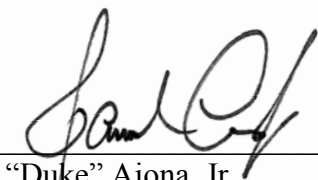
NENE AWARENESS DAY

in Hawai'i, and thank the Department of Land and Natural Resource, Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the Nēnē Preservation and Awareness Society of Hawai'i for their continued efforts in providing information and awareness about our magnificent state bird.

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



Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i



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