



*Message from Governor Linda Lingle*

*and*

*Lt. Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.*

**CHINESE NEW YEAR  
YEAR OF THE RAT  
FEBRUARY 7 – 22, 2008**

We are pleased to offer our congratulations and wish continued prosperity to our residents and visitors celebrating the start of the Chinese New Year 4706 with parades, lion dances and other festivities including a lantern festival.

The Chinese community contributes to our rich cultural diversity and has a long and proud history on our islands, with roots tracing back more than 150 years. Our residents and visitors have been fortunate to share in the elaborate and beautiful celebrations that honor the start of the lunar new year.

As families gather together over the next 15 days to celebrate the Year of the Brown Earth Rat, we remain grateful to be part of a community where being good neighbors with others is essential to ensuring good fortune. As we look forward to this new year, we show honor and respect to our elders while celebrating the hopes and dreams of our youth.

Our Administration is working hard to improve the quality of life on our islands and we encourage residents to reflect on ways to maintain good health and happiness in their professional and personal lives. Whether joining with our families to enjoy their company, helping our neighbors in their time of need or sharing our good luck with others, the people of Hawai'i continue to share the *aloha* spirit every day. For this, we are truly blessed.

May you and your *'ohana* enjoy a safe, peaceful and prosperous new year.

Aloha and Kung Hee Fat Choy,

Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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