

Proclamation

Thirty years ago, the concept of disability referred strictly to an underlying physical or mental condition. Today, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, a disability is regarded as a complex interaction between a person and his or her environment. Because the perception of having a disability has changed, so too have the goals of programs supporting those who are disabled.

In the past, providing benefits to those suffering from a disability was seen as the best form of assistance whereas today, encouraging independence and involvement in all aspects of society are deemed better, long-term ways to improve the quality of life for the disabled.

Since its inception in 1995, the American Association for People with Disabilities (AAPD) has sought to improve the lives of the disabled through education and awareness. For the past seven years, AAPD has administered and developed Disability Mentoring Day to promote career development for students and job-seekers with disabilities through job shadowing and hands-on career exploration.

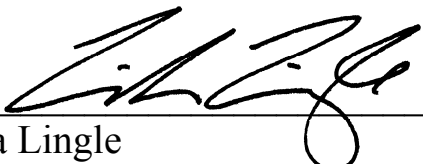
On October 15, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Center on Disability Studies, Mentoring Partnership Project and the National and Technical Assistance Center for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have teamed up to bring Disability Mentoring Day to Hawai'i. In recognition of this day, students and job-seekers, also referred to as mentees, with disabilities will be paired with a mentor who will provide guidance and an inside look at a chosen profession. There have been many successful matches between mentees and mentors, resulting in support, employment and life-long friendships.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **October 15, 2008**, as

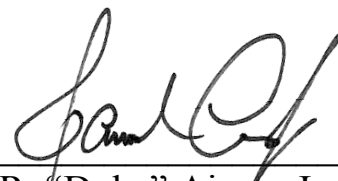
DISABILITY MENTORING DAY

in Hawai'i to promote the importance of the mentor-mentee relationship and encourage the recruitment of individuals with disabilities by creating a more inclusive work force, dispelling employer fears and increasing confidence among those who are disabled.

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



Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i



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