

Proclamation

More than 85,000 people nationwide are awaiting organ, eye and tissue transplants. Seventeen of those patients die every day while waiting for donations. In Hawai'i, it is estimated that more than 375 people need heart, liver, kidney or pancreas transplants, and of those, more than 12 people die annually waiting for a transplant.

Organ and tissue donations are some of the most generous and honorable gifts that people can share with one another. One donor has the ability to provide live-saving or life-enhancing donations for up to 50 people. Everyone has the potential to donate regardless of age, race or medical history. Most donations of organs, tissues and eyes are considerations occurring after death and without cost to the donor's family. Throughout the process, the body is treated with care, respect and dignity.

Living donations are becoming more common as potential donors choose to give their kidneys, liver, pancreas, bone marrow, blood products and breast milk while still alive. Careful consideration is given throughout the screening process to ensure the health of the donor and the recipient. In addition, it is helpful for potential live donors to join a national registry as a way to shorten the waiting period for an organ.

Hawai'i's unique geographic location and diverse populations present additional challenges to obtaining donations. While it is possible to match a candidate with a donor from another racial or ethnic group, success rates increase when organs are matched between people of the same ethnic background. Along with checking the designation on a driver's license or state identification card, the Organ Donor Center of Hawai'i provides donor cards that can be used when potential donors discuss their wishes with their families.

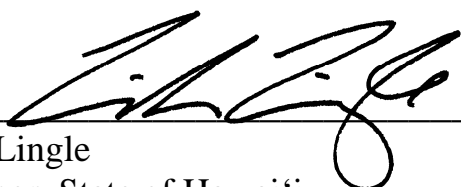
We extend our sincerest *mahalo* to our residents and visitors who are donors or who have pledged a donation. Your efforts save lives and help with critical research leading to better health care for everyone. Each April, the Hawai'i Coalition on Donation joins with Donate Life America and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to celebrate *Donate Life Month* in an effort to promote public awareness of the donation process, while increasing the number of donors nationwide.

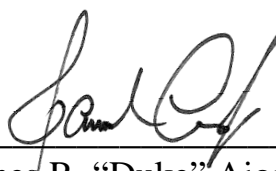
THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim April 2008, as

DONATE LIFE MONTH

in Hawai'i, and encourage our citizens to acknowledge the efforts and good works of those who make successful transplants possible, especially the donors and their families.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this first day of April 2008.


Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i


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