



Proclamation

Lupus is an autoimmune disease that is commonly misdiagnosed. There may be as many as two million people living with some form of lupus in the United States.

There are several forms of lupus that affect various parts of the body. Causes remain unknown, but may stem from a combination of genetic, environmental and possibly hormonal factors. Symptoms may include severe inflammation, a butterfly-shaped rash over the nose and cheeks, fever, fatigue, weight loss, arthritis in multiple joints, sores in the mouth or nose, loss of hair and seizures. While patients often die from strokes or kidney failure, lupus is not usually mentioned as a cause of death, making it difficult for researchers to receive funding. Due to a wide variety of symptoms, lupus can be difficult for medical staff to provide an early, accurate diagnosis. It can take doctors between four and seven years to accurately diagnose lupus before starting a patient on a treatment, which is more effective when started earlier.

It is estimated that between 7,000 to 10,000 people living in Hawai'i have lupus. The disease has been found to be two to three times more common among Native Hawaiians, Polynesians, Asians, African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans. Women are most often diagnosed with lupus, however, men and children are also at risk.

The board and staff of Lupus Hawai'i continue to work with the state Department of Health to organize patient support groups that offer outreach to homebound lupus patients and by sending rheumatologists to neighbor islands to reinforce to patients that they are not alone in their struggle. The Lupus Foundation of America selected April 1 as *National Lupus Alert Day* in an effort to increase public awareness.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **April 1, 2008**, as

LUPUS ALERT DAY

in Hawai'i, and encourage targeted education programs for health professionals, patients and the public, and increased recognition of lupus as a significant public health issue.

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