



Proclamation

The MAILE AMBER Alert, an acronym for **Minor Abducted In Life-threatening Emergency and America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response**, is dedicated to all abducted children. The plan was named in memory of two young girls, one from Hawai'i and one from Texas, who were kidnapped from their families and subsequently murdered.

The MAILE portion of the name honors the memory of Maile Gilbert, a 6-year-old who was abducted from a party in Kailua in 1985 and ultimately murdered. Her killer, who is serving a life-term in prison, confessed to the crime and eventually led Honolulu detectives to Maile's body near Kaena Point. The AMBER portion refers to 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was kidnapped while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas. This crime so outraged her community that in 1996, Dallas-Fort Worth broadcasters teamed with local police to develop an early warning system to help find children who are forcibly seized. That alert was subsequently adopted in various forms nationwide, and since then, almost 200 children have been safely recovered. In 2005, Hawai'i joined the other 49 states in having a statewide alert system to save abducted children.

The MAILE AMBER Alert is a powerful public-private partnership, extending from the White House to communities throughout Hawai'i to protect our keiki. Although county law enforcement officers had previously instituted a child recovery plan, this voluntary partnership unites state and county law enforcement agencies, TV and radio broadcasters, the federal government, and individual citizens in searching for missing children and their abductors. Keiki are our most precious and cherished citizens, and it is our duty to do all we can to protect them.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim January 14, 2008, as

MAILE AMBER ALERT AWARENESS DAY

in the Aloha State, and urge our citizens to recognize this important system and the protection it offers to Hawai'i's keiki.

Done at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fourteenth day of January 2008.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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