



# Proclamation

Community health centers provide comprehensive services to communities, including physical, mental and dental care. They are vital to the wellness of many of Hawai'i's most vulnerable populations, including the poor, homeless, uninsured and immigrants.

But the benefits derived from these health centers don't stop at their front doors. Everyone benefits from healthier communities, whether it's from fewer infectious diseases, happier and healthier keiki, or from more vigorous, productive workers.

In a given year, Hawai'i's 13 federally funded community health centers see more than 98,000 patients during more than 471,000 visits. Almost 40 percent of them are on Medicaid and 30 percent are uninsured.

According to the National Association of Community Health Centers, 70 percent of the clients served by community health centers nationally live in poverty. Providing preventive services to low-income patients and the uninsured keeps them from being forced to use hospital emergency rooms for their medical needs, and that saves the national health care system between \$9.9 billion and \$17.6 billion per year.

This year's National Community Health Center Week includes special recognition for the work health centers do for two underserved groups. August 13, 2008 will be recognized as Health Care for the Homeless Day, while August 14, 2008 is being observed as the inaugural Farmworker Health Day.

**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.,** Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **August 10 – 16, 2008**, as

## **NATIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER WEEK**

in Hawai'i, and extend a sincere mahalo to the professionals and volunteers who provide desperately needed health services to our communities.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-second day of July 2008.

Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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