

# Proclamation

A child is abused physically, sexually, emotionally or through the effects of neglect once every minute in America. These types of abuse can lead to low self-esteem, addictions, delinquency, crime.

In Hawai'i, we place a significant value on raising our keiki in supportive, stable and safe environments. However, child abuse and neglect continue to impact the formative years while crossing all ethnic, cultural and socio-economic boundaries. There are more than 2,000 cases of child abuse or neglect are reported annually throughout the state.

Everyone has a responsibility to be involved in the protection of children. Residents can provide assistance in these efforts through increased public awareness and partnerships among neighborhood groups, social service and law enforcement agencies, schools, civic organizations and businesses.

Prevent Child Abuse Hawai'i was formed 26 years ago as a chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America and remains committed to preventing all forms of child abuse and neglect. The group promotes healthy family environments through public advocacy, while offering education on the value of love and compassion for children and providing parents and caregivers with the support and skills they need to be more effective in their homes and in public.

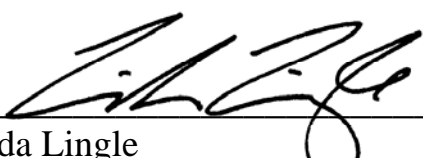
Every April for the past 25 years, *Child Abuse Prevention Month* has been observed across the nation. This year, on April 7, Prevent Child Abuse Hawai'i joins with the Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund to host the 2008 Prevent Child Abuse Hawai'i Conference at the Neal Blaisdell Center. It focuses on the theme, *Connecting ... Communities. Families. Children.* in an effort to strengthen families in our state.

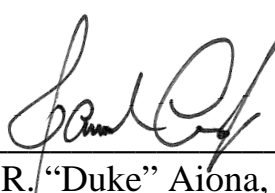
**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.,** Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **April 2008**, as

## **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

in Hawai'i, and urge all citizens to become involved in supporting efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.

**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