

# Proclamation

Our Administration welcomes closer relations and increased cultural exchanges with our Pacific neighbors, and the Visa Waiver Program provides such an opportunity. The program makes it easier for qualifying citizens of the Republic of Korea, and several other nations, to visit the United States.

The program has major implications for our islands. Tourism is vital to Hawai'i's economy, and it is estimated that the number of South Koreans who will visit our state will double to 80,000 in the program's first year, and could reach 160,000 by 2010. Efforts are underway in Korea to promote the pleasures of a Hawai'i vacation. The Hawai'i Tourism Authority has increased marketing efforts in South Korea and created a Korean-language website through Hawai'i Tourism Korea in anticipation of the Visa Waiver Program. Furthermore, officials have been working to create airfare and hotel package deals, as well as keep South Korean travel agents regularly informed about activities and special events happening on O'ahu and the neighbor islands.

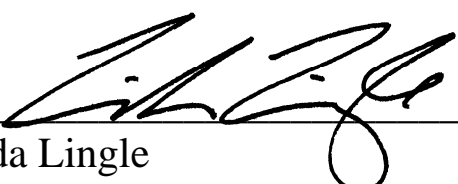
The benefits go beyond economic. The people of Hawai'i and South Korea have a long history and share deep cultural ties. Koreans and Korean-Americans make significant contributions to Hawai'i's rich multicultural fabric.

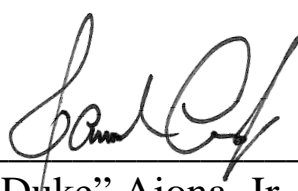
**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.,** Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **November 17, 2008,** as

## **VISA WAIVER PROGRAM DAY**

in Hawai'i, and encourage residents and members of Hawai'i's visitor industry to welcome our visitors with aloha and make their stay in our islands as memorable as possible.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this seventh day of November, 2008.

  
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Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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