

Proclamation

Thirty years ago, the concept of disability referred strictly to an underlying physical or mental condition. Today, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, a disability is regarded as a complex interaction between a person and his or her environment. As the perception of having a disability has changed, so too have the goals of programs supporting those who are disabled. Encouraging independence and involvement in all aspects of society are practiced as better, long-term ways to improve the quality of life for the disabled.

Since its inception in 1995, the American Association for People with Disabilities (AAPD) has sought to improve the lives of the disabled through education and awareness. For the past eight years, AAPD has administered and developed Disability Mentoring Day to promote career development for students and job seekers with disabilities through job shadowing and hands-on career exploration.

Statewide on October 21, 2009, local students and job seekers with disabilities, known as mentees, will participate in Disability Mentoring Day by shadowing mentors to see the day-to-day responsibilities required of a person in their field of interest. Local mentors have a chance to provide mentees with a unique volunteer experience.


Disability Mentoring Day, supported by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Center on Disability Studies, promotes disability as a central component of diversity recruitment for a more inclusive workforce, helps to dispel employer fears about hiring those with disabilities, increases confidence among students and job seekers with disabilities, enhances internship and employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and serves as a launch pad to promote year-round, national efforts in encouraging mentoring and career-exploration opportunities.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **October 21, 2009** as

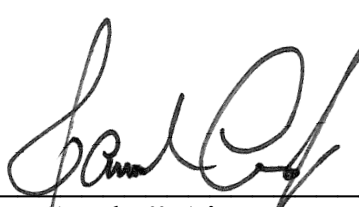
DISABILITY MENTORING DAY

in Hawai'i, and encourage our residents to participate either as a mentee or mentor and contribute to the success of this important and meaningful day.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fourteenth day of October.



Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i



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