



Proclamation

The volunteers and staff of the American Red Cross contribute to essential humanitarian services by providing preparation classes, disaster assistance and emergency communications to communities around the world.

In Hawai'i, the Red Cross operates eight offices with almost 5,000 volunteers who contribute their time, energy and financial abilities in times of need. The people in Hawai'i have relied on the services of the American Red Cross for more than 90 years, such as Windward O'ahu and Maui residents affected by the December 2006 flooding and during Hurricane Flossie, when the Hawai'i chapter housed more than 300 people. These volunteers respond to more than 100 local emergencies annually, including house, apartment and brush fires, and other human-caused and natural disasters.

In the chapter's effort to save lives before tragedy strikes, volunteers and staff members offer first responder training in their communities through first aid and CPR training, water safety and the use of AEDs (automatic external defibrillators) to help victims of cardiac arrest. In the past year, more than 32,000 residents have participated in American Red Cross Health and Safety Courses across the state. Your dedicated and trained volunteers staffed First Aid Stations at various community events and provided direct assistance to more than 260 people.

The American Red Cross also deploys staff members to offer emergency communications and a caring presence to service members overseas. In reaching out to members of the armed services on every island, more than 7,700 personnel and their families received pre-deployment information on how to use Red Cross services to maintain contact with loved ones in times of separation and crises. In the past year, the Hawai'i chapter sent 1,047 emergency messages to active duty personnel and their families.

President Bush recognizes March as *American Red Cross Month* annually to formally acknowledge the American Red Cross' important role in our communities. We greatly appreciate the aloha spirit of the volunteers, donors, staff members and partners who support the humanitarian efforts of the American Red Cross.

On March 7, the Hawai'i State Chapter of the American Red Cross hosts the *Hats Off* kickoff event at Tamarind Park in Honolulu. As a campaign to salute and fundraise for the Red Cross, the event features volunteer opportunities, food booths, displays and information regarding disaster preparation and response, health issues, safety training and a Celebrity Jan Ken Po contest.

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

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

in Hawai'i, and offer a sincere *mahalo* to everyone who helps the American Red Cross Hawai'i Chapter for their selfless assistance of our citizens and visitors.

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

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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