



Message from Governor Linda Lingle
and
Lt. Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
on the occasion of

CHANUKAH
DECEMBER 4 – 12, 2007

On behalf of the people of Hawai'i, we send greetings of aloha to all those of the Jewish faith who are celebrating Chanukah, the Festival of Lights.

Starting at sundown on December 4, we remember the story from more than 2,000 years ago when the Jewish people led a revolt against their Syrian oppressors who controlled Israel. Led by Judah Maccabee, the Jewish followers defeated the Greek army and reclaimed the Temple in Jerusalem. In cleaning and rededicating the temple, the people discovered there was only one day of holy oil left for the sacred lamp. Upon lighting the lamp, however, the oil continued to provide illumination for eight days.

Jewish people worldwide observe Chanukah, which means "dedication," to honor the miracle of the holy oil by lighting the first candle of the eight-branched menorah tonight in their homes and synagogues. This act is then continued over seven additional nights as a symbol of enlightenment, hope and gratitude for the many blessings in their lives.

As Hawai'i's Jewish community prepares for Chanukah, let us keep our 'ohana in our hearts and prayers. The continued illumination symbolizes the light within us all that is shared with others through the spirit of aloha. As the Jewish community celebrates Chanukah, we are especially thankful for the wonderful bounty of blessings we share every day with the people of Hawai'i.

Best wishes for a joyous, peaceful and Happy Chanukah!

Aloha,

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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