



Proclamation

Research and medical advancements have enhanced the health of individuals with Down Syndrome, a chromosomal abnormality occurring in one out of every 800 to 1,000 births.

The Hawai'i Down Syndrome Congress fosters self-advocacy and self-confidence in persons with Down Syndrome, as well as empowers their families to build community awareness.

During the past 12 years, the National Down Syndrome Society's "Buddy Walk" program has grown to include more than a quarter of a billion people walking at more than 275 gatherings across the nation and around the world in support of people with Down Syndrome. Through their efforts, more than \$6.5 million has been raised to benefit national education efforts, research and advocacy initiatives, and in support of local programs.

On Saturday, October 27, 2007, the Hawai'i Down Syndrome Congress will hold its eighth annual "Buddy Walk" starting from the Kapi'olani Park Bandstand, with more than 400 people walking one mile to promote understanding and acceptance of people with Down Syndrome. Funds raised that day provide for services that support and enhance the quality of life for individuals with Down Syndrome and their 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 **October 2007** as

DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

in Hawai'i, and encourage our citizens to participate in the Buddy Walk and support the Hawai'i Down Syndrome Congress, both during this month and throughout the year.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-second day of October 2007.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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