

# Proclamation

Founded in 1948, the Arthritis Foundation's mission is to improve lives through "leadership in the prevention, control and cure of arthritis and related diseases." The foundation promotes early diagnosis and treatment of arthritis as a way for those afflicted to reduce unnecessary disability.

Arthritis is a group of over 100 different diseases and conditions affecting joints and other body tissues. Common arthritis diseases include Osteoarthritis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriatic Arthritis and Gout.

Nationwide, approximately 40 million people, representing 15 percent of the population, are afflicted with a type of arthritis. The prevalence of arthritis is expected to rise, and it has become the leading cause of work disability in the country. In Hawai'i, there are over 212,000 residents affected by arthritis, including hundreds of keiki. Arthritis affects more children than muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy and cystic fibrosis combined.

Approximately 500 arthritis sufferers across the nation participate in Arthritis Foundation Life Improvement Series classes such as the Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Exercise Program and Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program. The foundation also conducts free community seminars and group presentations with the goal of providing information about all aspects of living with the condition, including lifestyle tips, safe medication and recreation options.

Locally, the Arthritis Foundation Hawai'i Branch partners with other local organizations to reach out to those afflicted with arthritis and enhance their quality of life through wellness promoting programs, classes and activities. The Hawai'i Arthritis Walk is the single largest fundraiser for the Arthritis Foundation and is part of a national effort to raise awareness and to fund local programs and research. The Hawai'i branch also runs the Juvenile Arthritis Camp Mana'olana each summer to ensure that local youth with arthritis can have a safe and healthy summer camp experience.

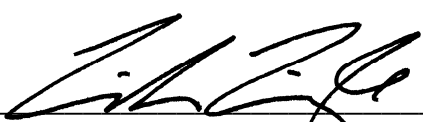
This year, the Arthritis Foundation is celebrating 60 years of service as a local and national advocate, supporting the health of those with arthritis through the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act.

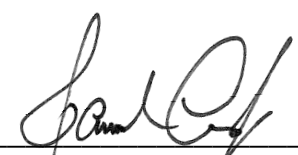
**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.,** Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **May 2008** as

## **ARTHRITIS AWARENESS MONTH**

in Hawai'i, and encourage our residents to be aware of issues relating to the prevention, control and cure of arthritis and related diseases.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fifth day of June, 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

