

# Proclamation

The State of Hawai'i is blessed with a magnificent natural environment and an abundance of natural resources. Living amid such abundance of nature is a constant reminder of our role as stewards of the land and sea, responsible for ensuring they will be enjoyed by generations to come. Conservation efforts in our state are carried out by numerous organizations involved in scientific research, education and public awareness about issues critical to the health of our 'aina and oceans.

Our state observes *Conservation Week* during the last week of July in order to promote effective, long-term management of Hawai'i's natural resources through collaborative meetings, training and outreach among land managers, educators, scientists and the general public. *Conservation Week* events aim to raise awareness of key issues and unite Hawai'i conservation leadership in identifying conservation-related priorities of statewide significance.

During this week, we reflect on the progress made towards the effective management of our native ecosystems, and celebrate the advances in the restoration and protection of rare and endangered species and their habitats in our islands. By promoting the support of high-priority management-oriented conservation research, we encourage innovation throughout the various conservation programs statewide. We aim to increase public awareness of key conservation activities from land management to preventing and eliminating invasive species.

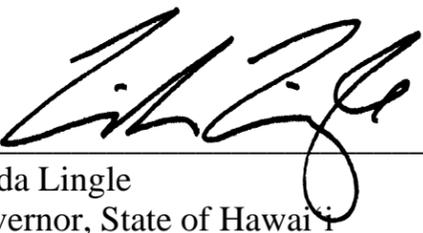
Conservation Week will approach its goals through activities including the annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference (HCC) and its symposia, forums and fieldtrips. HCC is the largest gathering of people actively involved in the protection and management of our state's environment, attracting an attendance of over 900 participants. This year's HCC theme is *Island Ecosystems: The Year of the Reef*, highlighting the importance of reefs in supporting ocean life while also addressing the broader management of island ecosystems, terrestrial and marine. The HCC also features keynote speakers, exhibits, tours and workshops.

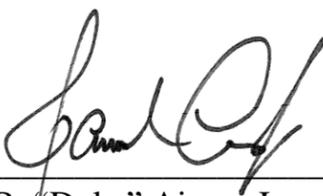
**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE**, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **July 27 – August 2, 2008** as

## CONSERVATION WEEK

in Hawai'i, and encourage our residents to explore the ways in which they can help preserve our precious natural resources.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-fifth day of June 2008.

  
Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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