



Proclamation

Mentoring is a critical investment in our community's future. By supporting the personal and professional development of students, mentors offer guidance and direction in the lives of young people.

Youth who experience the positive benefits of mentorship have been shown to be more successful in school, are more likely to attend college and are less susceptible to peer pressure that leads to negative behaviors. Mentoring allows children and young adults to improve relationships with their parents, siblings, teachers and peers.

In Hawai'i, there are many young people who are waiting to be matched with a mentor. A few organizations administering mentorship programs throughout the state include **Successful Transitions In Diverse Environments (STRIDE)**, Kamehameha Schools, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

We also recognize mentors who voluntarily share their passion, skills and in-depth knowledge of subjects with students, from professional mentors who serve as technical advisors involved in various activities to small business owners who teach the tools of their trade to young people. We greatly appreciate businesses in Hawai'i who give financially to nonprofit mentoring organizations and that support their employees by providing time to mentor youth in an effort to enhance their skills and professional interests.

President George W. Bush annually declares January as National Mentorship Month to showcase the positive impact of mentorship across the country and encourage all Americans to look for opportunities to serve as mentors in their communities.

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

MENTORING MONTH

in Hawai'i, and urge our citizens to express their appreciation to adults in our state who serve as mentors and encourage our residents to look for opportunities to mentor the youth in our communities.

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

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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