

Proclamation

Child abuse comes in many forms, and though visible scars may fade, the long-term psychological damage could haunt a child for life.

We believe that our keiki represent Hawai'i's most precious resource, and that each child deserves to be raised in a supportive, stable and safe environment. However, child abuse and neglect continue to negatively impact the formative years of many Hawai'i children, across all ethnic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. There are more than 2,000 cases of child abuse or neglect reported annually throughout our state.

Everyone shares a responsibility for the protection of our children. Residents can provide assistance in these efforts through increased public awareness and partnerships among neighborhood groups, social service and law enforcement agencies, schools, civic organizations and businesses.

Prevent Child Abuse Hawai'i was formed 27 years ago as a chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America and remains committed to preventing all forms of child abuse and neglect. The group promotes healthy family environments through public advocacy, while offering education on the value of love and compassion for children and providing parents and caregivers with the support and skills they need to be more effective in their homes and in public.

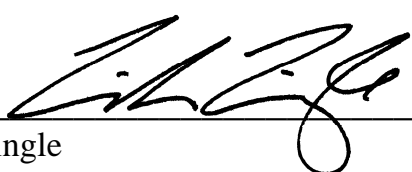
Each April, organizations throughout the country observe *Child Abuse Prevention Month*. To kick-off 2009's *Child Abuse Prevention Month*, Prevent Child Abuse Hawai'i is sponsoring a teddy bear drive and family resource fair at the Pearlridge Uptown Center Court on April 4, 2009. Other events throughout the month include family story time with special guest reader Mrs. Vivian Aiona at the Hawai'i State Library on April 11, the YMCA Healthy Kids Day at the Bishop Museum on April 18 and the Pinwheels for Prevention planting ceremony on the State Capitol lawn on April 20. The month will culminate at the 10th annual Prevent Child Abuse Hawai'i Conference on April 29 at the Ala Moana Hotel. This year's conference, themed *Strengthening Families...Because Children Matter*, will address three main protective factors in preventing child abuse, including nurturing and attachment, knowledge of parenting and child development, as well as social connections.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **April 2009**, as

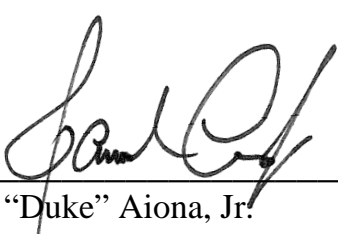
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Hawai'i, and urge all citizens to become involved in supporting efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this third day of April 2009.



Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i



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