

Proclamation

In many cultures, the giving of oneself is seen as the ultimate act of love and kindness. Thanks to modern medicine, today anyone can make the decision to become an organ donor and save lives. The selfless decision of an individual pledging to be a donor and committing to save another's life is an act of deep compassion.

National Donate Life Month is a time to recognize those willing to bestow that incomparable gift and demonstrate their love for their fellow human beings by becoming a savior, often to someone they have never met. That precious donation could mean that a father will live to attend his daughter's wedding, a mother will be able to raise her children or that a young person will be allowed to reach for her dreams and realize her potential. Since a single donor can benefit as many as 50 people, donation is an act of charity that reverberates through the community and changes many lives.

In Hawai'i, about 375 people are on the transplant waiting list, praying for a second chance at life. Nationally, that number is a staggering more than 100,000 according to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. OrganDonor.gov reports that each day about 19 people die waiting because enough organs are not available.

Hawai'i's unique geographic location and diverse population present additional challenges to obtaining donations. While it is possible to match a candidate with a donor from another racial or ethnic group, success rates increase when organs are matched between people of the same ethnic background. Along with checking the designation on a driver's license or state identification card, the Organ Donor Center of Hawai'i provides donor cards that can be used when potential donors discuss their wishes with their families.

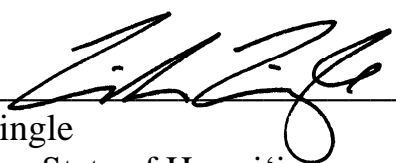
Each April, the Hawai'i Coalition on Donation observes Donate Life Month to enhance awareness of the donation process, while increasing the number of donors nationwide. We extend our sincerest mahalo to our residents and visitors who have shown aloha by donating organs or by pledging to become donors.

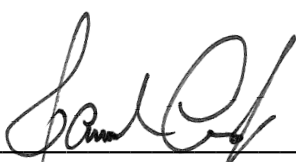
THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim April 2009, as

DONATE LIFE MONTH

in Hawai'i, and encourage our citizens to take the time to fill out a donor card or let family members know they wish to donate.

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


Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i


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