

# Proclamation

The keiki of Hawai'i represent the well-being of our state's future, and each child deserves a healthy beginning and chance to realize their potential. However, the health of our children is placed in jeopardy when alcohol is consumed during pregnancy. Drinking any amount of alcoholic beverages during pregnancy can result in a baby being born with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

As the leading cause of mental retardation in America, FASD is responsible for many physical, behavioral, mental and learning disabilities found in children. Unlike most diseases, FASD is 100 percent preventable. If alcohol is not consumed during pregnancy, babies will not be born with the disease. It is of the utmost importance that all men and women in Hawai'i are aware of the dangers involved with consuming alcohol during the nine months of pregnancy.


In honor of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day, the Hawai'i State Department of Health, FASD office, in partnership with the FASD task force is hosting an event from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the auditorium of the State Capitol to increase the awareness of the dangers of drinking during pregnancy. The event, this year taking place on September 10, 2009, is open to anyone interested in learning about and preventing FASD. A number of public and private agencies and organizations that provide services to women and children have been invited to participate, and attendees have the opportunity to enjoy music, listen to special guest speakers and watch a video featuring women who drank during pregnancy discuss the consequences of their actions.

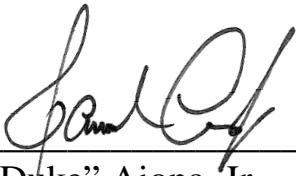
**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE**, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **September 9, 2009**, as

## **FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER AWARENESS DAY**

in Hawai'i, to promote understanding of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, to enhance our statewide prevention efforts, to increase compassion for those individuals and their families who are affected and ensure healthier communities in the future.

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

  
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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