

# Proclamation

Food is a necessity of life, and though some may take a continuous flow of sustenance for granted, there are many who are unsure about when their next meal will be and what it will consist of.

Since 1983, the Hawai'i Foodbank has served as our state's only nonprofit organization agency that collects, warehouses and distributes mass quantities of perishable and non-perishable food to 250 member agencies and food banks. In addition, the Hawai'i Foodbank offers financial and educational assistance to its member agencies.

According to the latest data provided by the Hawai'i Foodbank, donations help to feed 131,862 people statewide each year. Of these people, 32,965 are children and 14,504 are senior citizens. Donations are also the primary means to help low-income families, the homeless, disabled, temporarily unemployed and those experiencing sudden emergencies. Because of financial constraints, families in need often face tough choices, such as choosing between food and medicine, medical treatment, rent or mortgage payments.

Last year, the Hawai'i Foodbank distributed more than 8.6 million pounds of food to 250 charities, including food pantries, feeding programs, homeless shelters, rehabilitation centers and soup kitchens. In a statewide partnership, the Hawai'i Foodbank, The Food Basket on Hawai'i, Maui Food Bank and Kaua'i Food Bank distributed more than 10 million pounds of food to 400 member agencies throughout the islands. On April 18, the four food banks will hold their 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Food Drive to raise awareness of hunger in Hawai'i and collect food and funds to feed the hungry. Though the food banks have experienced a substantial increase in food donated and distributed over the past years, they still rely heavily on the generosity of volunteers and public donations.

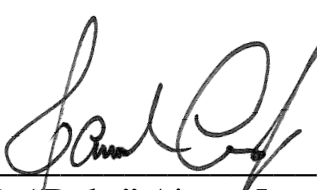
**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE**, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **April 2009** as

## HELPING TO FEED HAWAI'I'S HUNGRY MONTH

in Hawai'i, and strongly encourage our citizens to give generously to the food drive on April 18 and throughout the year, feeding those in need today, and giving them hope for a better tomorrow.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this thirty-first day of March 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