

# Proclamation

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in Hawai'i, regardless of race or ethnicity. According to the Hawai'i Tumor Registry, Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i and the University of Hawai'i, approximately 800 cases of female invasive breast cancer are diagnosed in Hawai'i each year, with 100 deaths caused by the disease. Hawai'i's women account for more than one-third of all cancer cases, but just over 15 percent of cancer deaths. More than 60 percent of female breast cancer occurs in women age 55 and older. On average, one man dies from breast cancer each year in Hawai'i.

Hawaiian women, compared to other major racial or ethnic groups in the state, have the highest breast cancer incidence and mortality rates. Hawaiian women have an incidence rate 1.7 times that of Filipino women, who display the lowest female breast cancer incidence rates in Hawai'i. The death rate for Hawaiian women is almost 1.2 times that of Caucasian women, and more than twice the mortality rate for Chinese, Japanese and Filipino women in Hawai'i.

Aside from being female, age is the most important factor affecting breast cancer risk. Moderate or vigorous physical activity, maintaining a healthy body weight, having a first child before age 30, breastfeeding and avoiding alcohol or drinking less than two drinks each day are all associated with a lower risk of breast cancer.

Founded in 1913, the American Cancer Society has been committed to combating cancer through education and prevention as well as reducing the suffering it causes.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer was created by cancer survivor Margery Gould Rath in 1984. The first event, held in Boston, drew 200 participants. Since then, Margie's vision has inspired nearly 5 million walkers to take part in Making Strides events in more than 145 communities across the country, raising more than \$340 million to fight breast cancer. These events pay tribute to survivors, as well as those lost to the disease, while raising funds for the American Cancer Society, which goes towards research, education, advocacy and patient services throughout the year.

In 2008, nearly 600,000 walkers across the country joined the American Cancer Society in their fight against breast cancer, raising more than \$60 million through Making Strides events. This year, under the leadership of Jennifer Plunkett, American Cancer Society's director of corporate relations, the inaugural Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Hawai'i event has come to fruition with more than 2,000 walkers, raising more than \$200,000 in its first year.

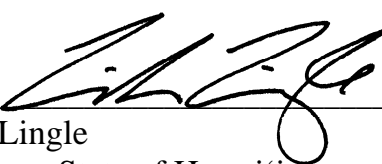
Making Strides is not a race; it is a celebration of survivorship, an occasion to express hope, and a shared goal to end a disease that threatens the lives of so many people we love.

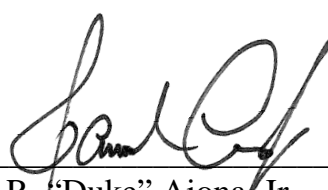
**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim October 3, 2009 as**

## **MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER DAY**

in Hawai'i, and encourage our citizens to support the American Cancer Society's important work, both during the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk and throughout the year.

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

  
Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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