



Proclamation

We are blessed in Hawai‘i to have many outstanding older citizens who are treasured by their families and enhance our communities with their wisdom, knowledge and generosity. The stories of our kūpuna offer a window into the past, through which we can gain better insight into our present and future. We also value the breadth of experiences of our kūpuna, who, represent diverse cultures and walks of life.

Hawai‘i’s older adults make up a large proportion of our population. According to the latest estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 183,994 people age 65 or older in our state, or about 14.3 percent of the population. This number is likely to increase as members of the baby boomer generation reach retirement age and life expectancies increase among older Americans.

The older citizens of today and tomorrow promise to be among the most active, involved and independent older adult populations in America’s history. It is our responsibility to provide services to our kūpuna that help them to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. We must also plan for the future and ensure that infrastructure and support services are in place to meet increases in our elderly population. To this end, the State Department of Health’s Executive Office on Aging, with input from the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, advocates and provides resources for many of our kūpuna.

Since 1963, our country has celebrated *Older Americans Month* each May to bring to light the issues that affect older adults. This year’s theme, “Living Today for a Better Tomorrow,” emphasizes that our present actions have a direct impact on our lives in the years to come. To help improve the quality of life for our seniors, we can help them make lifestyle changes that can reduce the risk of disease, disability and injury and give them the tools needed to make informed decisions about existing health and long-term care options.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. “DUKE” AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, do hereby proclaim **May 2009**, as

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

in Hawai‘i, and encourage our citizens to honor our kūpuna and the support organizations that help them lead positive lives, and to help pave the way for future generations to age with respect and integrity.

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

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai‘i

James R. “Duke” Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai‘i