

Proclamation

Drug addiction, also called substance abuse, is the repeated and excessive use of chemical substances to achieve a certain effect. In time, the brain's chemistry is altered to the point where stopping drug use becomes extremely uncomfortable and even painful. This addiction becomes more and more powerful, disrupting work, relationships and a person's well-being.

Substance abuse by adolescents puts our children at risk and is associated with cognitive and behavioral problems that interfere with academic performance. Consumption of alcohol at a young age increases the risk of developing alcohol dependence later in life. Accidents, which are often influenced by alcohol or drug abuse, are the leading causes of death for adolescents, and include motor vehicle crashes, suicides and homicides. In addition, drug and alcohol use among adolescents has been associated with various illegal behaviors and may increase engagement in sexually risky behaviors leading to unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Through a joint effort by government agencies and the community, our state has developed effective prevention and treatment resources to provide support to our children and adolescents and their families. As a result, preventative programs, as well as school and community based treatment have been made available and a decrease of substance abuse in Hawai'i. Currently, 2,107 students have been enrolled in public school-based treatment services to get help for their substance abuse disorders, as opposed to 1,229 in the year 2003.

Adolescents who undergo substance abuse treatment report less use of marijuana and hard drugs, less heavy drinking and less criminal involvement. Other benefits include better psychological adjustment and improved school performance after treatment. Organizations such as Hina Mauka's Teen C.A.R.E.; Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA); Big Island Substance Abuse Council; The Institute for Family Enrichment; and Aloha House on Maui all provide outpatient treatment to teens. The Bobby Benson Center also offers outpatient and residential services for adolescents.

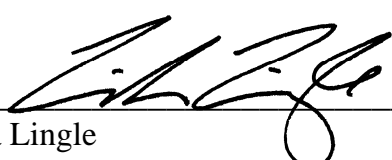
This year marks the 20th anniversary of *National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month*. Since 1989, our state has made great progress in offering treatment resources available, especially to adolescents, and has also increased public awareness about the continuing need for quality drug and alcohol addiction treatment and recovery services and programs. This year's theme *Join the Voices of Recovery: Together We Learn, Together We Heal*, emphasizes that an important factor in lasting success when battling substance abuse addiction is a strong, reliable support network.

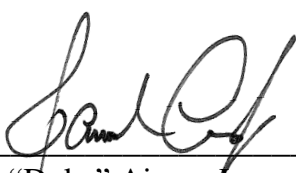
THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **September 2009**, as

ALCOHOL & DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY AWARENESS MONTH

in Hawai'i, and call upon our residents get involved in increasing public awareness about the continuing need for preventative programs, as well as substance abuse treatment and recovery programs, especially for our youth, the leaders of tomorrow.

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


Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i


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