

# Proclamation

In the United States, one in six women will experience a rape or attempted rape. In Hawai'i, one in seven, or nearly 67,000, women will be raped in her lifetime.

Sexual assault is an indiscriminating, devastating act, and assailants can be strangers, acquaintances or trusted friends. Since each person and situation are different, the response of survivors are varied, depending on age; social support available; frequency, severity and duration of the assault; level of violence; response of the victims' loved ones, the criminal justice system and the community; and the meaning attributed to the traumatic event. Though survivors will carry the pain of their victimization with them for the rest of their lives, recovery is possible.

For more than 30 years, various organizations, including the Hawai'i Island YWCA, Sexual Assault Victim Empowerment; Kaua'i YWCA, Sexual Assault Treatment Program; Maui Child and Family Service, Sexual Assault Support Services; and O'ahu Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children, Sex Abuse Treatment Center have been providing services for the victims of sexual violence.


Raising awareness is vital to ending sexual assault. The Hawai'i Coalition Against Sexual Assault is joining criminal justice officials and organizations throughout the state and the nation to draw attention to the consequences of sexual assault. We urge the community to respect the rights of victims, work to prevent this disturbing crime and keep informed about its consequences.

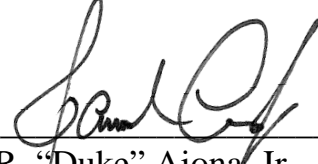
**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.,** Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **April 2009**, as

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

in Hawai'i, and encourage our residents to learn more about this critical issue and help end sexual violence in our state.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, twentieth 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