

Proclamation

The spoken word is very powerful. Well-formed ideas conveyed clearly and concisely have the ability to change lives, shape history and leave a lasting legacy. Learning how to effectively communicate can help individuals increase self-confidence, advance in a career or simply share a story.

Public speaking and debate teaches students how to properly research and analyze topics, present ideas logically and clearly and become more comfortable and competent when speaking in front of a crowd, while also fostering a healthy, competitive team-building environment. Many colleges and universities offer valuable scholarships to students who compete nationally on speech and debate teams.

For 50 years, the Hawai'i Speech League has offered a diverse program of public speaking activities for intermediate and high school students. It has more than 25 member schools, both public and private, throughout the state. Through dedicated preparation and practice, competitors display their skill, talent and determination during rigorous tournament schedules. Having the opportunity to recognize the Hawai'i Speech League on this milestone anniversary in the same year that our state commemorates its 50th anniversary of statehood is cause for celebration.

The Hawai'i Speech League will culminate its 2008 – 2009 competition schedule with the State Forensic Championship Tournament, held April 6 – 18 at Punahou School and Mid-Pacific Institute. The winners will go on to represent Hawai'i in Birmingham, Alabama at the national tournament this summer.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **April 12 through 18, 2009,** as

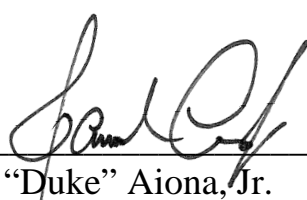
SPEECH WEEK

in Hawai'i, and thank everyone involved with the Hawai'i Speech League for their commitment to promoting the development of public speaking and debating skills.

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



Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i



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