



Proclamation

For centuries, the cane was primarily used as a tool to assist with walking, but during the twentieth century it took on a new role, alerting people to the fact that an individual may be blind or visually-impaired.

Today, the long white cane is recognized throughout the United States and many other countries as a symbol of safety and independence for blind or visually-impaired people who are conducting their daily activities within sighted communities.

Each state has “white cane” laws requiring motorists to yield the right of way to the blind or visually-impaired. These safety measures help citizens to be active and productive members of society by protecting them as they travel to and from their destinations.

President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed the first National White Cane Safety Day on October 15, 1964, and since that time, it has been observed annually throughout our nation.

In observation of National White Cane Safety Awareness Day in Hawai‘i, Ho‘opono Services for the Blind, a branch of the Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, will host its annual White Cane Safety Awareness Day Walk on Friday, October 15, 2009 through downtown Honolulu.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, and **I, JAMES R. “DUKE” AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor, do hereby proclaim **October 15, 2009**, as

WHITE CANE SAFETY AWARENESS DAY

in Hawai‘i, and encourage our residents and visitors to be cognizant of the use of the white cane as an instrument of safety and independence for the blind and visually-impaired.

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

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai‘i

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