

Proclamation

Army noncommissioned officers (NCO) trace their roots to the beginnings of American military history. Over that time they have continually demonstrated courage, dedication and a willingness to uphold the principles of freedom and democracy.

NCOs serve in many capacities including small unit leaders, technical experts, trainers and more. Distinguished as the “backbone of the Army,” these brave men and women have the dual responsibility of leading their subordinates as well as following the orders of their commanding officers.

In recognition of their commitment to service and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our nation, the secretary of the Army established 2009 as the Year of the NCO. Throughout the year, the Army is honoring these brave men and women through initiatives and events that enhance awareness and public understanding of the roles and responsibilities of NCOs and offer support through education, fitness and leadership development initiatives.

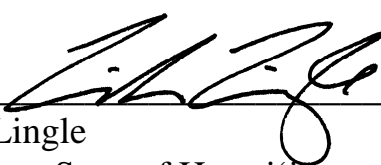
In Hawai‘i, to commemorate the Army’s 234th anniversary, a special birthday ball and reception is taking place on June 13, 2009 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort and Spa. At this time, we would like to honor the NCOs who have demonstrated great sacrifice and dedication throughout their years of service.

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

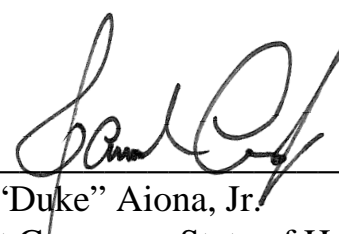
YEAR OF THE NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER

in Hawai‘i, in recognition of the valuable service they have provided, making our state, nation and world a safer and better place in which to live.

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



Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai‘i



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