



STATE OF HAWAII

Lt. Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.

e-NEWSLETTER

Aloha and Welcome from the Lt. Governor's Office in Hawai'i

It is with pleasure we send you this e-newsletter
2007 Special Edition Year-End Retrospect

Quote of the Year

"Our innovation initiatives are helping to transform the state's economy from one based on land development to one based on developing Hawai'i's human capital."

- Lt. Governor Aiona, on helping Hawai'i compete in the global marketplace. Learn more on Lt. Governor Aiona's [website](#).

Fact of the Year

Hawai'i's unemployment rate remains among the lowest in the nation at 2.9 percent through November.

- Learn more on Lt. Governor Aiona's [website](#).

Upcoming Events

January 7

Lt. Governor Aiona participates in the 2008 Sony Open Dream Cup Pro Am Tournament at Waialae Country Club.

January 7

Lt. Governor Aiona appears on his radio show Talk Story with host Mike Buck live on KHVH 830 AM from 5-6 p.m. The public is welcome to call (808) 521-8383 with questions and comments.

January 8

Lt. Governor Aiona holds a news conference to highlight new efforts to help young people get a college education.

This week's e-Newsletter highlights some of Lt. Governor Aiona's top stories in 2007.

Family Strengthening Crucial to State's Future Well-Being



The Lt. Governor is joined by adoption advocates in declaring November as Adoption Awareness Month in Hawai'i

Lt. Governor Aiona was honored by an advocacy group for children and families in December for his commitment to strengthening families across the state.

In accepting the "Friend of the Family Award" from the Hawai'i Family Forum, he credited families with playing a crucial role in caring for the elderly, looking after the disabled, raising children with strong values and aiding in recovery when problems arise with drugs, alcohol or mental health.

For his part, the Lt. Governor helped secure an \$8.2 million federal grant to improve and expand substance abuse recovery support services in Hawai'i, where the funds will pay for such services as drug-free housing, job training and parenting classes.

In December, the Lt. Governor joined Department of Human Services Director Lillian Koller in distributing more than \$14 million in new federal funding to hospitals for treating uninsured patients, regardless of

View the Lt. Governor's Public Schedule [here](#).

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their ability to pay.

In November, the Lt. Governor proclaimed Adoption Awareness Month in Hawai`i, calling attention to children awaiting adoption in the state.

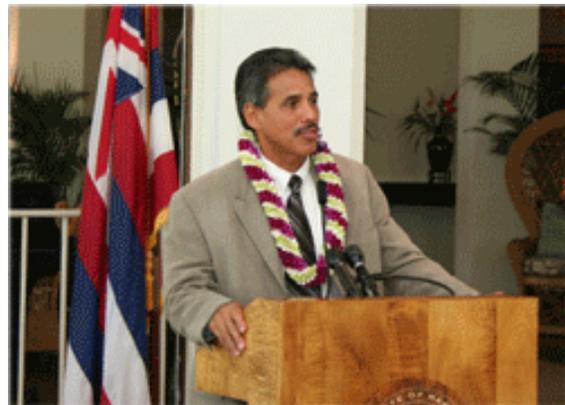
In September, Lt. Governor Aiona announced increased efforts in Hawai`i to find missing children and reunite them with their families. To prompt greater public awareness about the seriousness with which family abduction cases must be addressed, the Lt. Governor declared September 19 as "Missing Children Day" in Hawai`i.

"Families are the bedrock of our communities," Lt. Governor Aiona said. "Our Administration will continue to do all we can to help strengthen families across Hawai`i."

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Learn more on the Lt. Governor's [website](#).

Hawai`i's First Physical Activity and Nutrition Plan Unveiled



At Washington Place, Lt. Governor Aiona addresses the crowd about the Hawai`i Physical Activity and Nutrition Plan.

Lt. Governor Aiona led a statewide push in 2007 to improve and maintain the health of Hawai`i residents. The first-of-its-kind effort aimed to reduce the risk of diabetes, heart problems and other chronic diseases.

As part of a 10-week campaign in June, the Lt. Governor was featured in the Department of Health's public service announcements to promote eating fruit and vegetables. Before that, he played a major role in another 10-week public education effort that emphasized the importance of

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exercising regularly.

The effort culminated in the first-ever Physical Activity and Nutrition Summit, a collaborative effort held in October to highlight the best practices and guidelines in healthy living. The Lt. Governor opened the summit, which came a month after he helped release the first statewide Physical Activity and Nutrition Plan, which serves as the guide to help residents make good choices about their health.

"We know that good nutrition and regular physical activity are fundamental to healthy living," Lt. Governor Aiona said. "Our Administration is helping to provide the people of Hawai`i with the tools they need to improve their overall health and wellbeing."

- Learn more on the Lt. Governor's [website](#).

Significant Gains Made in Affordable Housing



Lt. Governor Aiona paints with Danny and Lynette Gomez.

Lt. Governor Aiona continued his strong support of providing more affordable housing solutions throughout the year - one of the Lingle-Aiona Administration's top priorities.

During a keynote address in August at the 6th annual Native Hawaiian and 8th annual Asian Pacific American Convention in Honolulu, the Lt. Governor pointed to the more than 2,200 leases the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) has awarded to Native Hawaiian families since 2003.

In October, the Lt. Governor visited Kaua`i to participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Courtyards at Waipouli, an 82-unit affordable rental housing project. In his remarks, Lt. Governor Aiona highlighted plans for 4,000 rental and for-sale affordable housing units across the state in the next five to six years.

In July, the Lt. Governor visited Maui to help a dozen Native Hawaiian families build houses they will live in. The construction was part of the 4th annual "Build-A-Thon" led by Habitat for Humanity as part of its five-year plan to complete 200 homes statewide for low-income and middle-class wage earners.

"While we are proud of our recent accomplishments, our Administration will continue to push for more affordable housing solutions," Lt. Governor Aiona said. "These are investments we must make so our keiki can raise their families here in Hawai`i."

- Learn more on the Lt. Governor's [website](#).

Education Touted as Key to Developing Highly-Skilled Workforce



Lt. Governor Aiona addresses students and faculty at Kapiolani Community College's First Annual Hydrogen Grand Prix.

Lt. Governor Aiona helped intensify a statewide focus in 2007 on cultivating science and technology skills among students.

Developing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills in Hawai`i students is among the goals of the Hawai`i Innovation Initiative, part of meeting the future hiring needs of employers in a global economy.

The Lt. Governor actively supported project-based learning in areas such as robotics and encouraged students throughout the year to develop the problem-solving and analytical skills deemed critical to competing successfully in the global marketplace.

In April, the Lt. Governor and two teams of Hawai`i students traveled to Atlanta for the 2007 FIRST Robotics Competition in the Georgia Dome. In May, he welcomed 37 teams to the

2007 Hawai`i Botball Regional Tournament at the Hawai`i Convention Center, where students competed in the high-tech, high-energy approach to STEM education.

In June, he visited a robotics workshop held at Chaminade University, where an estimated 107 students from middle and high schools across the state prepared for the regional competition to be held in March 2008.

"Our students should be equipped with world-class analytical and problem-solving skills," Lt. Governor Aiona said. "These initiatives, especially the STEM-related programs, focus on creating lifelong learning and skill-building opportunities for students, teachers and our existing labor force."

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Learn more on the Lt. Governor's [website](#).

Highway Safety Campaign Focused on Reducing Crashes



Lt. Governor Aiona addresses the audience on implementing the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

To combat traffic fatalities across Hawai`i, Lt. Governor Aiona helped roll out the state's strategic plan in August to make our roadways safer.

"Our goal was to make Hawai`i's roadways safer for all users, and reduce the number of senseless, often preventable, deaths and injuries on our roadways," Lt. Governor Aiona said.

In August, the Lt. Governor helped launch a statewide motorcycle safety awareness campaign to reduce motorcycle-related crashes and fatalities in Hawai`i.

The campaign was motivated by a national ranking that showed Hawai`i with the fifth-highest motorcycle fatality

rate in the nation.

In addition, Lt. Governor Aiona joined the Department of Transportation in continuing to promote the importance of wearing a seatbelt and practicing safe driving behaviors as part of Highway Safety Month.

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Learn more on the Lt. Governor's [website](#).

Administration Committed to Developing Renewable Energy Solutions



Lt. Governor Aiona climbs the 50 ft. ascent to the top of the Kaheawa Wind Turbine.

Continuing the Lingle-Aiona Administration's commitment to protecting the environment, Lt. Governor Aiona actively promoted the potential for renewable energy to help meet growing power demands across the state.

"Our Administration is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency and protecting the environment," Lt. Governor Aiona said.

As part of that effort, the Lt. Governor co-sponsored a bipartisan resolution in July at the National Lieutenant Governors Association in Virginia to combat climate change and invest in renewable energy.

He also toured the Kaheawa Windfarm in September to get an up-close look at steps being taken on Maui to increase energy efficiency, where approximately nine percent of the electricity powering homes comes from a renewable source.

In October, the Lt. Governor went to the Big Island to tour the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai`i and meet with business tenants. The state agency manages an 870-acre ocean science and technology park at Keahole Point in Kailua-

Kona.

He also visited Puna Geothermal Venture in Hilo, where the firm generates power by tapping into the underground cauldron of Kilauea's volcanic heat, converting steam into electricity for Big Island residents.

The Lt. Governor also met with executives from the Kaua`i Island Utility Cooperative and visited the proposed site of a bioethanol plant, a venture created from the partnership formed in July 2007 between Gay and Robinson Inc., the state's second-largest sugar producer, and Pacific West Energy LLC, an international ethanol producer and marketer.

- Learn more on the Lt. Governor's [website](#).

State's Drug Control Plan on Right Track



Lt. Governor speaks at an event for September Alcohol and Drug Addiction Month in Hawai'i

Lt. Governor Aiona announced in November significant progress toward curbing the use of crystal methamphetamine across Hawai`i.

He credited coordinated efforts for a steady reduction in crystal methamphetamine use in the workplace throughout 2007, when employers saw a 25 percent decline in the third quarter.

Also, fewer people in adult treatment centers were identifying crystal methamphetamine as their primary drug of choice.

In addition, he cited statistics that show the number of meth labs discovered in the state has decreased from 19 in 2004 to three in 2007.

At the Hawai`i Island Methamphetamine Summit IV, the Lt. Governor praised the event as a commitment from Big Island officials to protect residents, businesses and neighborhoods from the harmful effects of methamphetamine use.

In May, Lt. Governor Aiona and then Acting U.S. Surgeon General Kenneth Moritsugu launched a campaign against underage drinking in Hawai`i, where 20 percent of children polled had admitted experimenting with alcohol.

Their push to reduce and prevent childhood drinking was the focus of a call-to-action town hall meeting at Washington Place.

As a follow-up to that meeting, in June, the Lt. Governor announced that law enforcement officials will increase enforcement of state laws prohibiting underage drinking.

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Learn more on the Lt. Governor's [website](#).

Hawai`i Remains Open for Business



Lt. Governor Aiona addresses Hawai`i business leaders

Lt. Governor Aiona continued his strong support for Hawai`i businesses in 2007.

He addressed hundreds of mortgage brokers gathered for a conference in May, calling on the group to take stronger steps to ensure that loans they broker are suitable for their borrowers.

Continuing his support for entrepreneurship across the state, he participated in events for the Filipino and Japanese chambers of commerce, praising their efforts to promote goodwill and strengthened economic ties between Hawai`i

and Asia.

Additionally in July, the Lt. Governor helped officially open the state's Office of Aerospace Development, which is working closely with NASA to further space exploration through research projects in Hawai`i. The Lt. Governor also joined the national Aerospace State's Association as a vice chair.

Lt. Governor Aiona drew attention in 2007 to the potential for Hawai`i to strengthen its already prominent role in astronomy worldwide.

As part of the Administration's ongoing commitment to make Hawai`i more business friendly, Lt. Governor Aiona joined Governor Linda Lingle in September to help the Hawai`i Restaurant Association celebrate two milestones: the association's 60th anniversary and the inaugural class of members inducted into the Hawai`i Restaurant Association Hall of Fame.

In October, he opened the Building Industry Association of Hawai`i's 51st annual Parade of Homes Gala, highlighting the Administration's efforts to build healthier communities statewide.

Then, in November, he traveled to the Big Island to participate in the annual Kona Coffee Festival and promote the important role agriculture plays in the state.

- Learn more on the Lt. Governor's [website](#).

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