



Proclamation

All children deserve to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment where they can benefit from lasting and positive relationships with caring adults.

Stability within the home is one of the most critical influences in a child's life. Parents who are involved in their children's lives can help to encourage them to set and reach goals, work hard and make good choices. We appreciate those who open their hearts and homes, providing love and stability for young people. By caring for the youngest members of our society, these families enable our keiki to improve the future of Hawai'i.

Throughout November, communities across the nation observe National Adoption Month to raise awareness and encourage citizens to become involved in the lives of these youth – as adoptive parents, volunteers or mentors. Our Administration understands the importance of adoption, and we honor those who provide children with a loving home.

In Hawai'i, the state Department of Human Services (DHS) is committed to enhancing services that connect children with their kin prior to an adoption or termination of parental rights. The adoption process within our state remains a successful collaboration between DHS, the judiciary, the state Attorney General's office, private sector partners and other agencies and families who have been willing to welcome children as members of their families.

This month is also a time to raise the awareness of the many children still waiting to be adopted in Hawai'i and encourage more prospective parents to choose adoption.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **November 2008**, as

ADOPTION MONTH

in Hawai'i, and encourage our citizens to honor adoptive families and to participate in efforts to find permanent homes for waiting children.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this seventh day of November 2008.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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