



# Proclamation

According to the United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration, employers nationwide pay almost \$1 billion per week on workers' compensation expenses. In addition to direct costs, workplace injuries incur many indirect costs, such as training replacement employees, accident investigation, lost productivity, repair or replacement of damaged equipment or property, and expenses that arise from lower employee morale and absenteeism. Worse still is the human cost. The latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show there were 5,657 on-the-job fatalities in 2007, of which 23 occurred in Hawai'i.

Occupational safety, health and environmental professionals are dedicated to identifying hazards and eliminating fatalities, injuries and illnesses in the workplace. The more than 32,000 members of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) have been committed to protecting people, property and the environment for 98 years.

The Hawai'i chapter of the ASSE is highlighting Occupational Safety and Health Week to draw attention to the importance of preventing illness and injury in the workplace. The members of ASSE are committed to workplace safety and are marking this important event with the theme, "Safety Means Always Coming Home." Special attention should be given to safety professionals, whose expertise helps protect people, property and the environment, and prevent illness, injury and death to workers.

**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.,** Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 3 - 9, 2009, as

## **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK**

in Hawai'i, and urge all workers to act responsibly and observe safe practices on the job.

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

Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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