



*Message from Governor Linda Lingle
and
Lt. Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
August 17, 2007*

We send greetings of aloha to all of our residents on the occasion of Statehood Day.

Ever since our islands were first admitted into the Union on August 21, 1959, the people of Hawai'i have enjoyed many benefits from statehood, including federal funding for roadways, schools, hospitals and other infrastructure, as well as a voice in national issues through a voting congressional delegation and full participation in presidential elections. Today, Hawai'i's status with the federal government continues to bring many benefits to all our residents.

Achieving statehood required the tireless efforts of numerous individuals during the course of many years. In 1919, Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole, who was serving as the Territory of Hawai'i's congressional delegate, introduced the first of 33 bills aiming to offer Hawai'i statehood. Nearly 40 years later, Delegate John A. Burns successfully negotiated the admission of Hawai'i as a state in 1958, despite frequent opposition from some of the Southern states. The following year, 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower offered statehood to the people of Hawai'i, who voted for and overwhelmingly approved the measure.

Each year, we set aside the third Friday of August to reflect on the many benefits statehood has brought to Hawai'i. We hope you and your 'ohana honor this holiday and consider its significance.

Aloha,

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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