

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, health insurance coverage is an important component of a comprehensive health care system; and,

**WHEREAS**, the lack of health insurance often results in untreated acute medical conditions requiring more costly and uncompensated care; and,

**WHEREAS**, providing health insurance coverage for all of Hawai'i citizens is a worthy goal that will have both economic and social benefits; and,

**WHEREAS**, while Hawai'i once boasted the lowest rate of medically uninsured at 5 percent in the late 1970s, current estimates indicate that 10 percent of Hawai'i residents are uninsured; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i Uninsured Project (HUP) was established in 2002 to educate the community about issues of the medically uninsured, and develop innovative strategies to provide coverage for those who lack insurance; and,

**WHEREAS**, HUP is comprised of representatives from local businesses, health care providers, insurers, non-profit organizations, employee unions and government agencies committed to developing long-term sustainable solutions to this serious problem; and,

**WHEREAS**, HUP is a local partner in "Cover The Uninsured Week," which is supported nationwide by more than 900 business and consumer, religious and health industry groups; and,

**WHEREAS**, HUP's research indicates that close to 58 percent of the uninsured in Hawai'i are classified as the working poor; and,

**WHEREAS**, HUP's research further indicates that approximately one-fourth, or 27,000, of Hawai'i's uninsured are children 18 years of age and younger; and,

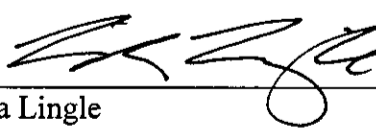
**WHEREAS**, Hawai'i, which is regarded as "The Health State," is firmly committed to ensuring that health coverage is accessible and affordable for all,

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE**, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 10 through 16, 2004, to be

## **COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK**

in Hawai'i, and encourage the people of our state to recognize the urgency in seeking solutions to one of Hawai'i's greatest and growing problems.

**Done** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fourth day of May 2004.

  
Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i