

# Proclamation

The Nene Hawaiian Goose has endured a long struggle against extinction. In the 1940s, this exquisite species was nearly wiped out because there were no laws protecting the birds from being hunted during their winter breeding seasons when they were the most vulnerable.

The Nene Hawaiian Goose became Hawai'i's State Bird in 1957. This prompted extensive rescue efforts by conservationists for one of the world's rarest goose species. They started breeding the birds in captivity and worked to preserve the remainder of the declining population.

Early programs for the return of captive-bred birds proved to be quite difficult. However, through recent efforts, there has been success. Today, there is a small, but stable population of the Nene Hawaiian Goose on the islands of Maui, Kaua'i, Moloka'i and the Big Island.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the Nene Preservation and Awareness Society of Hawaii have been working diligently for the past three years to sponsor public awareness campaigns to help educate communities through information tags on retail merchandise. Proceeds from Nene Hawaiian Goose T-Shirts and other products benefit the Division of Forestry and Wildlife and other dedicated charitable groups.

As part of this awareness campaign, radio and television announcements will appear along with advertisements in newspapers and magazines. Posters of the Nene Hawaiian Goose will be placed in supermarkets, banks, malls and schools. There will be a "Goose that Laid the Golden Egg" contest in all of our schools to create awareness about the difficulties facing the beloved state bird.

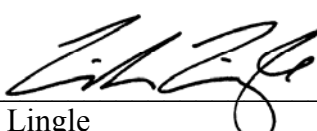
The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the Nene Preservation and Awareness Society of Hawai'i will celebrate September 26<sup>th</sup> as Nene Hawaiian Goose Awareness Day.

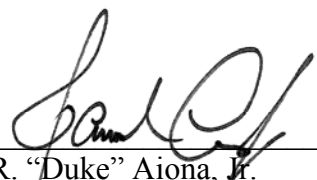
**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE**, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2006, as

## **NENE HAWAIIAN GOOSE AWARENESS DAY**

in Hawai'i, and thank the Department of Land and Natural Resource, Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the Nene Preservation and Awareness Society of Hawai'i for their continued efforts in providing information and awareness about our magnificent state bird.

**Done** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twentieth day of September 2006.

  
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Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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