

A New *Beginning*

F O R H A W A I ' I

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Candidate for Governor

A New Beginning for Hawai'i

A new beginning for Hawai'i starts with electing a leader who will bring people together for the common good. The challenges we face, the problems we must solve, and the opportunities that lie ahead belong to all of us. And while we each must take some responsibility for meeting these challenges, solving the problems, and realizing our opportunities, the next governor has the primary obligation to draft a plan and lay out the road map we will follow to reach our destination.

A new beginning for Hawai'i outlines my plan for improving state government so that it provides outstanding service to the people of Hawai'i, rather than burdening them with high taxes, wasteful spending and outdated regulations.

A new beginning for Hawai'i means focusing on achieving our goals of good schools, a strong economy, and a government that the public can trust and respect. And it means realizing our destiny as a great, multi-ethnic American state which we can proudly offer as a model for the rest of the world.

Too often, elected officials present grand visions to the public, but lack the management experience, fiscal skills or mandate to implement their vision. My vision is to make government a well-run, rock-solid operation. It should meet its financial obligations, provide quality services to the public, especially those in need, and support entrepreneurial individuals, businesses and organizations that dream big and want to make those dreams happen in Hawai'i.

Please take a few minutes to read my plan, and if you agree this is what we need to create a new beginning full of hope and opportunity for all the people of Hawai'i, please complete the attached supporter card and return it today. I welcome your support and help in my campaign for governor.

Mahalo and Aloha,



Linda Lingle

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Restoring Trust in Government

Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono

“The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness” is more than just our state motto. These words mean that trust and integrity should be the foundation of life in Hawai'i.

Unfortunately, dishonest and sometimes criminal behavior by more than a few government officials has made it harder and harder for the people of Hawai'i to trust our government. It is critically important that integrity and trust be restored. Elected officials must earn and maintain the public trust if they are to effectively serve the people of Hawai'i.

Returning Honor to Public Service

We have watched as elected officials who have abused our trust were sentenced to prison. We have seen favoritism in the awarding of government contracts and personal advancement based on who you know. We have observed non-bid contracts going to contractors, engineers and architects who by no small coincidence were major contributors to some elected official's last campaign. It was even worse when we learned that many of these contributions had been structured to get around campaign finance laws. All this must end.

State government should treat all people fairly, with dignity and out of a deep concern for making things better in Hawai'i, and not take care of just a favored few. We must demand more from our leaders, so no family is left behind and all the people of Hawai'i can have faith and trust in our government again.

There are those who say that focusing on the issue of integrity in government distracts us from the more important issues facing Hawai'i such as the economy, but until we have integrity in government, Hawai'i will not attract the level of capital investment needed to fuel our economy. No one wants to invest their money someplace where the rules are unclear and unfairly applied. The lack of integrity in government is the single most damaging factor contributing to Hawai'i's anti-business image.

Ending Broken Promises

The lack of integrity is also seen in decades of broken campaign promises. We have been promised major improvements to the public school system and yet all measurements, national and local, rank our public schools among the lowest in nearly every single measurable category. We have been promised a “caring” government, yet the number of our citizens living in poverty has steadily increased. The lack of integrity in government has resulted in a system where no one is accountable to anyone for anything.

Each citizen has a responsibility to get involved in the political process and make things better. Most do so by casting informed ballots and supporting their elected officials. Those of us who choose government service have an obligation to fulfill our duties with integrity and honor. We need to return to the ideal that all government workers, and especially elected officials, are public servants and that public service is an honor and a privilege. Citizens must insist that all public servants do what is right, not what financially benefits them, their friends, or their family. Honesty and integrity should be absolute prerequisites to public office.

A Fair and Open System

To create an open government in which people of integrity treat every citizen fairly, I will immediately:

- Create an open selection process for all appointed positions including all boards and commissions. Selection for these positions will be on the basis of qualifications, experience, and personal character, not on the basis of who you know, how much you contribute to someone’s campaign, or to which political party you belong.
- Recruit nominees from a broad, cross-section of the community, and make sure that department directors and boards and commissions are representative of Hawai‘i’s diverse population and geographic regions.

- Create a transparent system of awarding contracts that brings Hawai'i in compliance with universally accepted standards. It's time for "best practices" to replace the "good ol' boy network."
- Increase the size of the Contract Selection Committee from three to five, with two of the members being non-government members with relevant experience.
- Empower the Contract Selection Committee, not politically-appointed department personnel, to rank the top non-bid consultants for each contract.
- Require the governor to approve all emergency contracts that bypass the safeguards of the normal procurement process.
- Post all contract award information on the Internet so the public and the media can watch what government is doing.
- Hold myself and those who serve in government accountable to the people of Hawai'i for our official actions, our personal behavior, our campaign promises and for achieving measurable results.
- Recommend tough, new penalties for public officials who break the law and betray the trust placed in them by the public with mandatory prison time for corruption and fraud.

Making Government Work Better

Restoring integrity to government requires us to share information openly with the public so the people of Hawai'i will know the true condition of state government, the programs it operates and the results of its efforts. Both elected leaders and the public must know the state government's true financial condition and capability. This information is essential to good decision-making. Government resources are limited, so all spending and policy choices must be based on reliable information and clearly articulated values and objectives, rather than short-term political considerations.

There is much room for improvement in Hawai'i. An unwillingness to set clear priorities, confusing financial reporting systems, an ever-growing number of special funds, and the inability to measure results, have left the public and even some government officials trying to figure out just where the State of Hawai'i stands financially.

Financial accountability and openness are essential if government leaders are to make sound decisions and then be held accountable for the actual results. They are absolutely necessary to break the vicious cycle of corruption and favoritism in state contracting, and to restore trust and integrity in government service.

As governor, within the first 180 days of my administration, I will:

- Authorize a complete, independent audit of the state's finances in cooperation with State Auditor Marion Higa.
- Implement relevant improvements outlined in previous state audit reports, and others contained in internal departmental audits.
- Deliver a clear and understandable annual report to the public that shows what portion of state tax dollars are being spent on each service, current financial conditions, areas needing improvement and how to achieve those improvements.

- Design a Performance-Based Budget that shows the public:
 - a. Where tax dollars are being spent
 - b. The results of that spending
 - c. Whether the results accomplish goals we want to achieve
- Recommend that the legislature eliminate special funds that are not needed and transfer balances to the general fund for use in high priority areas, such as restored funding to the University of Hawai'i.

Community-Based Decision Making

State government has become estranged from the public. We need to create and nurture a vibrant interchange between the citizens and their government, and move decision making to the county level whenever possible.

As governor, I will:

- Establish Governor's Advisory Councils on the Neighbor Islands, with monthly meetings to seek citizen input on state activities, including recommendations for people to serve on boards and commissions and budget priorities.
- Appoint a statewide committee of government, labor, business and community members to recommend a new structure of power sharing between the state and the counties.

Strengthening the Economy

Hawai'i's potential for economic growth and diversity is great. However, steps must be taken now to establish business-friendly attitudes and policies. This potential will vanish if state government stays on its current course of trying to "manage" the economy and treating businesses as adversaries.

Our economy has struggled for more than a decade as state government adopted ill-conceived policies and heavy-handed practices that stifled competition. Hawai'i has a reputation for treating business as an opponent instead of a partner. Even worse, government has rewarded a favored few with generous state contracts while making it difficult for many small businesses to survive. This must change.

We need to adopt proven, successful economic principles such as competitive markets and lower taxes. This will create more and better employment opportunities for the people of Hawai'i.

A strong economy benefits everyone. It means families will be able to realize their dreams of home ownership, a first-class public school system, a college education for their children, and a retirement that allows them to live with dignity and remain in Hawai'i. It also means that many families can be reunited as young people return home from the mainland to quality jobs that provide real opportunity for the future.

I believe in a business-labor-government partnership that encourages and nurtures a diversified, growing and sustainable economy. We cannot allow ourselves to be held political hostage by any special interest group. Diversifying the economy cannot continue to be just talk; we must begin to make it happen now.

Tourism

State government needs to end its decades-long, love-hate relationship with the visitor industry and embrace what is clearly the foundation of our modern economy, while at the same time developing new industries. This core industry should continue

receiving dedicated funding for marketing and be held accountable for results. It should also receive the enthusiastic support of state government.

- I will create a cabinet-level position, directly accountable to the governor, that will be responsible for ensuring the sustained health and diversification of the visitor industry.

Agriculture

Agriculture is a vital component of our economy that has evolved from large-scale plantation operations growing a single crop to smaller, entrepreneurial farms growing products that fill niche markets both locally and globally. Diversified agriculture produces exports that bring dollars to Hawai'i. The value of these products has nearly doubled in the last 20 years. Agriculture also serves as a valuable backdrop for the tourism industry, and is made up of people who believe strongly in stewardship of our land and water resources.

- All state agencies, including schools, prisons and hospitals should be encouraged to buy Hawai'ian products.
- The UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources must be adequately funded to study export products, markets, disease prevention, and processing techniques; and the Hawai'i Agricultural Research Center must receive matching funds. Hawai'i can, and should, be a world leader in agricultural science.
- The state must maintain vital irrigation systems, before they deteriorate, such as the Lower Hamakua Ditch on the Island of Hawai'i.
- We must improve consolidation facilities at harbors and airports.
- We will work to remove trade barriers to other states and countries.

High Technology

High technology is an important way to strengthen and diversify Hawai'i's economy. It will provide new and high quality jobs for people living here now, as well as hope and opportunity for those who wish to return. High technology is environmentally friendly and it has potential applications for improving every existing industry in Hawai'i.

- Act 221 provides incentives for high technology investments that are considered among the best incentives in the nation, and yet few people or businesses outside of Hawai'i are aware of it. I propose an aggressive marketing program for Act 221.
- Support effective funding levels for the University of Hawai'i's activities in basic and applied research, technical assistance programs, and technology transfer efforts to strengthen and increase the economic benefits derived from partnerships with local and global businesses.

Complementary Industries

As governor I will use tax incentives and other government support to attract investment in both new and existing industries, and to communities with high levels of unemployment. These industries include:

- Entertainment, including the film industry, and Hawai'ian music and dance.
- Biotechnology, crop research and development, seed production, and pharmaceutical products. We must take full advantage of our outstanding scholars and researchers at the University of Hawai'i, as well as good weather and year-round, multiple growing seasons that can make Hawai'i a leader in agricultural research.
- Health care, medical research, and medical education focused on Asia and the Pacific Rim. Health care related tourism is potentially a huge market, which Hawai'i is well-positioned to tap. We need to accelerate that process.

- The sports industry should be a priority. We need to attract more world-class competitions to Hawai'i as we have with the Honolulu Marathon, the Pro Bowl and Hula Bowl, various golf tournaments, and the Ironman Triathlon.

Other Initiatives

As governor, I will also work to:

- Reduce the price of gasoline by increasing competition, removing restrictions on where gas stations can be built and repealing other laws that drive up gas prices.
- Remove barriers to business and job growth by working cooperatively with the counties to cut unnecessary regulations and consolidate the permit system into a real, "one-stop shop." The goal should be informed decisions rather than mindless paper shuffling.
- End the 4.16 percent excise tax on medical care and products. It is bad public policy to tax people who are sick or injured. This tax puts the heaviest burden on our senior citizens and others on fixed incomes.
- Re-institute the food tax credit to help reduce the tax burden on families.
- Support university-led research by assisting in obtaining the millions of dollars available in federal grants to create new businesses and jobs. Work closely with University of Hawai'i President Dobbelle and the Bush Administration on obtaining these grants.
- Encourage the Bush Administration to re-establish the importance of the East-West Center in Pacific/Asia relations and economic development.

Improving Public Education

I am committed to making sure all the children of Hawai'i receive a quality public education in schools that are safe, where qualified teachers are the norm and where parents are a welcomed part of the school system.

This basic right is critically important to parents and children, and to the future of our state. A well-educated population is essential if Hawai'i and its people are to compete successfully in the global economy.

Election year slogans that politicians have resorted to in the past, such as “an education second to none” are nothing but words. Now is the time for action.

We must begin immediately, and we must succeed. Too much is at stake to put up with the status quo for even one more year. A common sense, back-to-basics approach is needed to bring about immediate and steady improvement in our schools.

Hawai'i has the second highest private school enrollment per capita in the nation, and extremely high rates of children who are home schooled. Parents understand that the Department of Education (DOE) is not doing a good job and is failing their children.

We should be thankful for the outstanding array of private schools, as well as the significant sacrifices parents make to fund private school education or home school their children. At the same time, we should be concerned about those families that have no choice but to send their children to failing public schools. They deserve better.

The existing centralized, one-size-fits-all school system has proven over and over incapable of responding effectively to the needs of individual islands, communities, or to the parents, teachers and students who depend on it. Decisions must be made closer to the schools and communities that are directly affected by those decisions.

Basic discipline must be restored in schools. Students in certain schools are afraid to go into restrooms, and disruptive students

are allowed to remain in classes where they make it unnecessarily difficult for other students to learn and our teachers to teach. Teachers must have the discretion and authority to remove disruptive students. We cannot continue a system that caters to the few at the expense of the many.

Here are some common sense, time-tested ways to improve our public schools. Some can be implemented immediately, while others will take longer. Now is the time to outline a plan and get started.

Return Control of Schools to Communities

- Decentralize by establishing seven, locally elected school boards so that parents, teachers and communities can control their own schools. The seven boards would be: Kaua'i County, Maui County, Hawai'i County, Leeward O'ahu, Windward O'ahu, East Honolulu, and Central O'ahu.
- Fund district operations on a per pupil basis so that funding is fair and equal in all districts. Fund construction on a needs basis since some districts have much older schools than others.
- Manage and implement all repairs and maintenance on the district level, removing the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) from its current role as statewide carpenter, plumber, and painter.

Provide Choices For Parents and Students

- Enthusiastically support alternative programs, including community-based charter schools, magnet schools, e-schools (Internet learning), and home schooling. Teachers' existing benefits and retirement credits should be maintained at charter schools. The current practice of penalizing teachers in charter schools is patently unfair.
- Work in cooperation with labor and business to create meaningful apprenticeship programs in vocational/technical schools that prepare students to get a job upon graduation if that is their choice.

- Allow home-schooled students to participate in sports and other extracurricular activities. Their parents have paid taxes and these children should have access to such programs.

Follow the Money

- Conduct a complete, independent audit of the Department of Education, and institute performance-based budgeting.
- Redirect 50 percent of the money currently spent on the DOE's centralized bureaucracy so it is actually spent in the classroom or at the local school level.
- Replace the shockingly wasteful DOE supply storeroom as recommended by the state auditor with a modern, district-based purchasing system that gets supplies to the classroom in a timely fashion at the best possible price.
- Issue debit cards to teachers that allow defined types of purchases with a dollar limit to keep within budget.

Return Discipline to All Schools

- Give teachers the discretion, authority, and administrative support to remove disruptive students from the classroom so that the majority can have a positive learning environment.

Improve Special Education

- Petition the federal court to clarify the state's responsibility under the Felix consent decree. Money that should be spent on special-needs children is instead being spent on consultants and lawyers.
- Work with the Bush administration and Hawai'i's congressional delegation to increase federal funding of special education.
- Appoint one person to take the lead on Felix, who is accountable directly to the governor for achieving not just technical compliance, but a truly appropriate education for all students.

- Review standards that are used to identify “Felix children” to determine if students are being properly classified.
- Explore providing vouchers to parents of “Felix children” so they can effectively seek a viable alternative when the public schools continually fail to provide the services needed to support their children.
- Work with and support the legislative investigating committee’s attempts to hold the DOE accountable for all money spent on Felix.
- Install a data system that is actually useful for teachers, rather than the current ISPED system that burdens teachers and other professionals without improvement in services to students.
- Recruit special education teachers within the state by offering various incentives, such as tuition reimbursements, while eliminating any pay differential for teachers recruited from the mainland.

Protecting Our Environment

Respect and responsibility for our environment and stewardship of our natural resources are part of the social fabric of our society today. And as an island state with an economy based to a large degree on tourism and diversified agriculture, our environment is the foundation of our economic well-being.

Government is perpetually faced with finding the right balance between what is best for our environment and what is best for our economy. But pitting each against the other has too often produced a winner and a loser. We cannot continue to operate in this manner if we expect a quality environment and a growing, diversified economy. I believe the goals of a strong economy and a protected environment can be compatible.

There is tremendous opportunity for environmental responsibility to be an economic force and for economic forces to be environmentally responsible.

I envision members of the environmental community participating in the decision making process as voting members of regulatory agencies, and I will appoint people with solid environmental credentials to relevant boards. Good decisions result when all viewpoints are represented.

I will also ask environmental, business, and community leaders to collaborate on exploring and recommending environmental opportunities for economic development.

As governor, I will:

- Support tourism, agriculture and a healthy and harmonious lifestyle by preserving our natural beauty and environment.
- Support broad-based, community decision making on development and preservation projects.
- Create markets for recyclable products (lubricants, bottles and cans) by using tax or market incentives. Recycling will

only work if someone wants to use the end product. State government should be a leader in purchasing and using recycled products to help develop those markets.

- Maintain parks and natural areas for residents and tourists. The public enjoyment of these areas has been greatly diminished because too little money has been budgeted for maintenance.
- Work closely with federal, state and county agencies to eliminate pointless duplication and the wasting of resources on multiple reviews of programs and projects. The goal should be intelligent regulation, not bureaucratic obstructionism.
- Support projects that do not create adverse impacts on parks, beaches or conservation lands.
- Provide support for programs, public and private, that maintain complex ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Promote and support watershed management and preservation of aquifers.
- Increase shoreline setbacks for structures, and strictly enforce prohibition on seawalls.
- Vigorously enforce anti-pollution laws already on the books.
- Appoint people with environmental or conservation experience to boards, commissions and agencies whose decisions impact our land, water, and natural resources.
- Re-establish the Community Workday Program to reduce the growing litter problem and to resolve other community problems such as abandoned cars.

Supporting the University of Hawai'i

The original purpose of the University of Hawai'i system was to make a quality college education available at an affordable price to all the people of Hawai'i. Today, I believe the goal of the University of Hawai'i should be to become one of the very best public universities in the nation.

All too often, the University has functioned like an agency of state government. For this reason, it has not received the appreciation, respect and support that it deserves and needs from the general community. The future for our University system must be built upon collaboration and cooperation with government, the community and business.

Hawai'i should always be a world research leader in areas where we have a natural advantage such as marine biology, aquaculture, tropical agriculture, astronomy, oceanography, volcanology, and alternative energy. For this to happen, the University must lead the way.

The days of thinking about the University as just a place to get an affordable degree are gone. The University is a critical player in Hawai'i's economic future. From the standpoint of our people, there is no better investment opportunity in town than the University of Hawai'i.

As governor, I will:

- Appoint to the Board of Regents individuals who share my vision for a world-class University of Hawai'i and who bring value to the table. The old days of political appointees who don't bother to ever really understand the University's potential or to fight aggressively on its behalf, will be gone. This is a crucial first step in unleashing the vast potential that the University represents.
- Appoint, as appropriate, up to three non-Hawai'i residents with extensive qualifications to the 12-member Board of Regents in order to broaden the Board's perspective.

- Support genuine autonomy for the Board of Regents in running the University system. For example, the Regents should have complete independence in setting tuition and fees, and in bargaining with their employees. Their duty will be to serve the University, not the governor who appoints them.
- Support effective funding levels for the University of Hawai'i's activities in basic and applied research, technical assistance programs, and technology transfer efforts to strengthen and increase the economic benefits derived from partnerships with local and global businesses.
- Encourage state agencies, contractors, and grantees to use University of Hawai'i faculty and students as consultants and researchers.
- Encourage all businesses and non-profits to develop cooperative research and work/study programs with the University of Hawai'i.
- Allow the University to retain the funds it generates internally and make sure that state funding is not diminished as a result of these additional funds generated through University initiative.
- Assist the University in obtaining millions of dollars in existing federal grants by working directly with the Bush Administration and federal agencies responsible for awarding those grants.
- Encourage labor, business and individual donors to help build an endowment for the University of Hawai'i that will help it attract world class researchers, provide financial aid to students in need and develop new programs to help the University take a real leadership role in rebuilding our economy, protecting our environment and improving our way of life.

Fulfilling Commitments to Native Hawai'ians

The people of Hawai'i have a deep appreciation and respect for Hawai'ian history, language and culture. But all too often, when the time has come to act, state and federal government officials have not been there for Hawai'i's indigenous people.

The Department of Hawai'ian Homelands has fallen short of what it could and should accomplish for qualifying Hawai'ians. This has been true under Republican as well as Democratic administrations. The Hawai'ian Homes Commission Act dates back to 1921, yet nearly 10,000 beneficiaries are still on the waiting list.

State officials have not done the best job possible of lobbying forcefully and effectively in Washington D.C. on behalf of Native Hawai'ians.

State government has had trust obligations to Hawai'ians since statehood, but has not done enough to meet this responsibility. The tendency has been simply to react when Hawai'ian issues reach a boiling point. This is a recipe for disaster.

State officials must articulate ideas and goals, and encourage dialogue between all affected parties. Too often, state officials have acted unilaterally and not in accordance with their rhetoric. This is why trust and confidence in state government's commitment to Hawai'ians is eroding.

The stakes are high. It is the Hawai'ian people and their culture that make Hawai'i Hawai'i. If the indigenous people do not feel that things are pono, Hawai'i cannot prosper. Now is the time for government officials to speak clearly and from the heart about the position of Hawai'ians in this wonderful place that we all call home.

As governor, I will:

- Personally lobby the Bush Administration and the Republican leadership in Congress on behalf of Hawai'ian rights.

- Support federal and state funding for recognized initiatives leading to the implementation of Native Hawai'ian self-determination by popular vote of the Native Hawai'ian people.
- Support continued state and federal funding for Native Hawai'ian health care programs.
- Preserve and increase the use of the Hawai'ian language, culture, and music as central, unifying elements of our way of life.
- Achieve within five years both the state and federal government's legal obligation to distribute homestead lands to all individuals holding a legal right to such a homestead. This will finally implement Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole's vision to restore Native Hawai'ians to the land as expressed in the Hawai'ian Homes Commission Act.
- Reinstate the Hawai'ian Homelands Trust Individual Claims Review Panel to resolve the claims that were filed by Native Hawai'ians for the mismanagement of the Department of Hawai'ian Homelands.

Assuring Public Safety

One fundamental purpose of government is to ensure public safety. Safe streets and neighborhoods are critically important. They promote a sense of social well-being that defines our society.

While our state has discussed building more prison space, and unfortunately that must be done, we need to increase efforts to prevent criminal behavior and to rehabilitate those in prison. This must be done not just to rehabilitate those who break the law, but to protect the innocent by preventing future crimes.

Drug Prevention and Treatment

Three out of four crimes committed today are directly related to drug or alcohol abuse. We can no longer ignore the impact this abuse is having on our communities, our families, and especially our children. There are too many lives that have been destroyed. There are too many futures that are in jeopardy. We must act now to treat and rehabilitate those in need. In the long run, prevention is by far the smartest approach.

We need to build correctional facilities in Hawai'i that offer drug and alcohol treatment. We must also increase our educational and treatment capacity for those not in prisons today, but who are at risk. This is an investment in preventing substance abuse before it happens, as opposed to treating and punishing it after incarceration.

Security after 9-11

Our world changed forever when the terrorists struck on September 11. The security of our country and our state has become a priority for every level of government and for every citizen. As a state comprised of islands, our security needs are unique. Each county, to a large degree, must be able to respond to unexpected situations independently. We cannot easily call on other counties or other states for backup. This is a reality that calls for comprehensive planning with the military, as well as other federal, state and county agencies.

As governor, I will:

- Work with the Bush Administration to establish a Pacific Region for the Department of Homeland Security to be based in Honolulu that will make Hawai'i a secured point of entry for the Western United States.
- Support and advocate compensating local police officers on par with mainland communities of comparable size and risk. We need to end the migration of Hawai'i-trained police officers to the mainland because of large disparities in compensation.
- Divide the Department of Public Safety into two separate departments — the Department of State Law Enforcement and the Department of Prisons. This would address administrative deficiencies identified by the state auditor.
- Build two privately-funded, 500-bed substance abuse treatment correctional facilities that will begin to address the huge backlog of prisoners needing treatment and provide judges and juries with sentencing options. Keeping these facilities in Hawai'i will allow important family ties to be maintained as part of the rehabilitation process.
- Encourage and support community-based programs that empower people to prevent or reduce crime, such as neighborhood watch and community policing.
- Work to secure increased federal funding for the highly successful, community-based Weed and Seed Programs.
- Focus on breaking the cycle of domestic violence by working with established programs to address the core issues causing domestic violence. The cycle must be stopped.
- Impose strict, mandatory penalties on those who sell and profit from illegal drugs, especially crystal methamphetamine.
- Keep the age of consent at 16.

Improving Health Care

Hawai'i is blessed with one of the best physical, social, and medical environments in the world. We enjoy clean air, unparalleled natural beauty, social diversity and acceptance, and modern, top-quality medical facilities and services.

Hawai'i is a healthy place to live, but health care costs are high and double-digit increases are projected. At the family level, insurance is not always available and affordable, and an uninsured illness can be financially devastating.

My agenda for a new beginning includes acting decisively to meet these challenges by eliminating taxes on medical care, providing incentives for purchasing medical insurance, increasing competition among providers, and providing incentives to ensure coverage for part-time employees.

As governor, I will:

- Eliminate the tax on the sick and injured. We can instantly reduce the cost of some health care by eliminating the 4.16 percent GET (general excise tax) on medical services and products. This will affect the total price by no more than 4.16 percent, but the principle is important. Government should not tax people for being sick.
- Invest in caregivers, and help alleviate the shortage of nurses by increasing student capacity at the UH School of Nursing. We must also revisit our licensing and immigration procedures so that nurses who already live in Hawai'i can actually work as nurses.
- Facilitate the purchase of long term care insurance by providing a tax deduction or credit for premium payments. Private insurers historically have provided better coverage at a lower cost than government-run programs.
- Provide a greater diversity of health care choices. For example, increase healthcare options to include health maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations, low and

high deductible plans, as well as medical savings accounts. Consumers who would like to combine a medical savings account with catastrophic care insurance ought to have that option. This is popular elsewhere but currently prohibited in Hawai'i.

- Increase competition to control cost, by encouraging entry into the Hawai'i market of additional health care insurers, HMOs, etc.
- Require that government provide health coverage for each employee who works more than 19 hours per week — just as every private employer in Hawai'i is required to do.
- Work with Hawai'i's congressional delegation, and use my contacts with the Bush Administration to increase Medicare and other federal reimbursement payments to achieve parity with mainland states and to reflect our higher cost of living. Some mainland Medicare providers receive 37 percent more than Hawai'i providers, even though our cost of living is much higher. This is not fair and must be changed.
- Seek federal reimbursement on behalf of local hospitals and physicians for the millions of dollars of health care costs resulting from the federal government's Compact of Free Association.
- Encourage employers to provide health insurance coverage to part-time workers. Many people work two or more part-time jobs and currently do not get health coverage through their employers. To reduce the number of uninsured people we should encourage employers to provide health coverage for employees who work less than 20 hours a week by allowing a tax credit for the premiums paid.
- Treat physical and mental disorders the same with regard to health coverage. Most mental disorders are controllable with medication. It makes no sense from a societal standpoint to cover asthma medication but not anti-depressants.
- Provide community health centers with consistent funding and adequate reimbursements to cover their costs.

Encouraging Alternative Energy

Hawai'i is blessed with many sources of natural energy including the year-round sun, wind, sea, geothermal and biomass, but until we make a commitment to be a leader in alternative energy development, we will remain dependent on imported oil and these cleaner sources of energy will remain underutilized.

All sources of alternative energy have challenges, such as start up costs and public acceptance. Yet each has the potential to fuel economic diversification and expansion.

Hawai'i's energy needs will increase in the coming years. Moving from an over-reliance on imported oil to cleaner, more efficient sources of energy is critical to our environment, the economy, and our very way of life. This is particularly true while our country is at war and we remain potential "energy hostages" to foreign governments.

In addition to alternative energy, Hawai'i should fully utilize energy conservation, waste-to-energy, and energy efficient buildings and materials.

The state must take the lead to stimulate renewable energy use and research, and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

As governor, I will:

- Achieve 20 percent renewable energy use by 2020.
- Design all state projects and buildings to use renewable energy to the maximum extent possible.
- Lobby the Bush Administration for federal funds to fully support Hawai'i's development of alternative sources of energy.
- Establish conservation goals for all government departments.
- Eliminate excise and fuel taxes on non-petroleum renewable fuels (biodiesel, gasohol, etc.)

- Extend tax credits for energy conservation installation, such as solar water heaters.
- Target renewable energy research as an area of excellence for the University of Hawai'i. Assist the University in attracting grants and federal funding to initiate these programs. Make state government a partner, not a burden, in the expansion of research funding for the University.

About Linda Lingle

For nearly thirty years, Linda Lingle has dedicated herself to making life and government better in Hawai'i — as a newspaper publisher, a county government leader and an active community volunteer.



After graduating from college cum laude with a degree in journalism, Linda served as the public information officer for the Hawai'i Teamsters and Hotel Workers Union in Honolulu, where she edited a monthly newspaper for the union's members.

She then founded the Moloka'i Free Press, a community newspaper serving the 6,000 residents of the Island of Moloka'i. As the paper's publisher, editor, reporter, photographer and typesetter, Linda reported on community events and covered local government. It was then that she realized she could help make a difference in government.

Fixing Government from the Inside

In 1980, waging a grassroots campaign against a well-funded challenger, Linda was elected to the Maui County Council. She served five two-year terms on the council — three terms representing Moloka'i and two terms as an at-large member. Her major accomplishment was creating a Moloka'i Planning Commission so that the people of Moloka'i had a means to discuss and decide zoning and planning issues that affected them.

Linda was elected Mayor of Maui County in 1990 and re-elected in 1994. She served the maximum two consecutive four-year terms by defeating the most prominent Democrats in the County, a former Mayor and a 40-year veteran of the County Council. She was the youngest, the first woman and the only non-Maui born person ever elected to the office. She is proudest of being able to gather support to implement performance-based budgeting that measures the effectiveness of government programs. Thanks to her

leadership, Maui County received the “Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award” for four consecutive years, and she was invited to advise the governments of Guam and Pohnpei on how to implement performance-based budgeting. Throughout her term, job growth was faster on Maui than anywhere else in the state. Because of her innovative and collaborative approach in developing tourism, Maui was voted “Best Island in the World” in the annual “Cond’e Nast Traveller Readers’ Choice Awards Poll” for five consecutive years.

In 1998, Linda campaigned for Governor, losing by just 1 percent of the vote, and was later named the most respected woman in Hawai'i in an independent poll commissioned by one of the state's leading magazines.

Making a Difference in the Lives of People

Linda has long been active in community service and volunteers her time freely to help make a difference in the lives of people.

She currently is a Board Member and Finance Committee Member for the Girl Scout Council of Hawai'i, and was a co-chair for the YWCA Leader Luncheon fundraiser in 2000. For ten years, she was a volunteer Chapter 1 reading tutor at Makawao Elementary School on Maui. She also served as a Troop Leader for the Moloka'i High School Girl Scout Troop.

Linda Lingle was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1953. When she was 12, her family moved to Southern California, where she graduated from Birmingham High, a public school in Van Nuys. In 1975, she graduated from California State University at Northridge, where she was editor of the Journalism Department Newspaper and the Alumni Newsletter. She was also selected to join the journalism honor society Kappa Tau Alpha. She moved to Hawai'i after graduation, following her father who had come a couple years earlier to open Cutter Ford in 'Aiea.

Linda Lingle for Governor
Campaign Directory
(Statewide area code 808)

Hilo	935-3320
Kona	326-6040
Kaua'i	245-1802
Maui	249-2400
Moloka'i	553-8266
Ni'ihau	245-1802
O'ahu	440-9600