



A Message from the Director

“Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono.” These familiar Hawaiian words constitute the motto of the State of Hawaii and signal that truly we believe “The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness.” Part of that pledge to righteousness is an unwavering commitment to our *kupuna*, the seniors among us who are gracing our *aina* in their golden years.

The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) recognizes that it is not only our obligation but also our privilege to do all we can as a State and as an *ohana* to ensure that our *kupuna* are respected, cherished, and honored. They are the roots which keep us grounded in these times of rapid change; they are the conscience of our community; and they are the bearers of wisdom and keepers of the ancestral memory.

I take this moment to extend a sincere *mahalo* to the countless number of residents of Hawaii who every day contribute to the quality of life of our *kupuna*. EOA takes seriously its role in supporting meaningful activities and significant services for our *kupuna*, in supporting caregivers, and in assuring that the days of our *kupuna* are long and overflowing with life, love, and aloha. Our commitment is to the twin pillars of meaningful living: namely, it is as important to add life to one’s years as it is to add years to one’s life.

A heartfelt *mahalo* is also due to our Governor Linda Lingle, her cabinet, and all of the other members of the Administration who strive to ensure our *kupuna* receive the very

best. Our *ohana* is more than government, but it no doubt includes all those who serve, whether elected or appointed, whether for a term or as a civil servant. It takes many paddlers to move a canoe forward.

Managing the receipt, distribution, and proper oversight of millions in federal and state dollars is part of EOA's responsibility to live up to our State motto. EOA is steadfast in empowering older people, their families, and consumers to make informed decisions about existing health and long-term care options. Government must do all it can to give our *kupuna* opportunities to remain in their own homes with a high quality of life for as long as possible through the provision of home and community-based services, including supports for family caregivers. We seek to equip our *kupuna* with the tools and opportunities to stay active and healthy through services and benefits. We take seriously the protection of our *kupuna* – to prevent their abuse, neglect and exploitation. And we are striving every day to maintain effective and responsive management and oversight of all services offered to *kupuna* through various vendors and partnerships.

“E Loa Ke Ola” – May Life Be Long!

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Director
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