



Celebrate Drug-Free Hawaii Awareness Month in February 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Honolulu, HI—February 1, 2010)—*Drug-Free Hawaii Awareness Month (DFHAM) 2010* launches with a **Proclamation Ceremony** hosted by **Lieutenant Governor James “Duke” Aiona, Jr.** and the *Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii* at 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 2 at the State Capitol’s Executive Chambers, 5th Floor.

“DFHAM focuses attention on educating the public on the impact of substance abuse on our youth, families and communities,” said **Alan Shinn**, Executive Director for the *Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii*. “It allows schools, service organizations, counties, and government agencies opportunities to sponsor activities and events on we can do to address the issue”.

Shinn said the awareness month provides a forum for people like Shaynalyn Ganotisi to tell their stories. Ganotisi, a Roosevelt High School student, lost friend Makamae Ah Sang to accidental death from alcohol poisoning last year. She is determined to reach her peers with the message of dangers of underage alcohol use.

Other speakers include:

- **Valerie Mariano**, Chief of Community and Crime Prevention, Department of the Attorney General and Chairperson for the Hawaii Partnership to Prevent Underage Drinking (HPPUD), the only statewide coalition addressing the underage drinking problem in Hawaii, and
- **Barbara Nosaka**, DOE Coordinator of Ilima’s Peer Education Program for Ilima Intermediate School with more than 20 years of experience in education and youth prevention.

For more information and ways to get involved now and throughout the year, call *Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii* at 545-3228 ext 21 and visit our website at www.drugfreehawaii.org.

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LIVE ALOHA  LIVE DRUG-FREE