



## MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO

August 16, 2002

Vicky and I wish Hawaii's people a very happy Statehood Day. On this 43rd observance of Hawaii's admission to the union, we invite you to join us in celebrating Hawaii's unique status as America's fiftieth state.

Since August 21, 1959, when President Dwight Eisenhower signed the proclamation that made statehood official, we have been proud members of a nation which has defended the principles of justice and equality over several generations. We have remained strong in allegiance to our country and—especially during this time of global tension and external threats—we are grateful to play a role in keeping peace and maintaining the democratic values established by our forefathers.

The people of Hawaii enjoy a diversity unlike any state in the nation. We are committed to ensuring unity and equality for all of our residents. While we celebrate the differences that define and enrich our island culture, we also treasure our identity as Americans and affirm our shared commitment to a happier and more prosperous future for all.

Have a wonderful Statehood Day, and thank you for making Hawaii an example of aloha and goodwill in which all Americans can share.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin J. Cayetano".

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO