

National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

CITY PROCLAMATION TEMPLATE

Proclamation
Supporting the National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
March 20, 2009

WHEREAS, we, the _____ do hereby establish and submit the following proclamation; and

WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives have experienced a long history of a lower health status when compared with other Americans which includes a lower life expectancy and higher disease occurrence than other racial/ethnic groups due to inadequate health education, disproportionate poverty, discrimination in the delivery of health care services and access to quality health care; and

WHEREAS, the spread of HIV/AIDS virus among American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians poses a significant risk to the public health and well-being of these communities, who have the third highest rate per 100,000 persons of AIDS diagnoses in 2006 of all racial/ethnic groups despite having the smallest population; and

WHEREAS, of all persons who had received a diagnosis of AIDS during 1998 – 2005, American Indians and Alaska Natives had survived a shorter time than any other racial/ethnic group while in the state of Hawaii, Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders represent 8.5% of Hawaii's population yet account for 13% of the AIDS cases; and

WHEREAS, the above mentioned rates and statistics are held suspect and are believed to be much higher than the current rates of infection and death which are under reported due to lack of access to medical diagnosis, misclassification, and/or overall poor reporting; and

WHEREAS, there is potential for a great increase of HIV/AIDS in American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian communities, as evidenced by several co-risk factors such as high rates of sexually transmitted disease in their communities, poverty, social stigma, high substance abuse rates; and

WHEREAS, the status of HIV/AIDS epidemic among American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian people is a public health crisis that requires a focused national effort as well as tribal effort to bring attention to the prevention needs of Indigenous people and to raise awareness of the American public, the Administration, the Congress, and public health agencies on this issue.

NOW THEREFORE, I _____, MAYOR of the City of _____ do hereby proclaim the people support March 20th 2009 as the National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. I call upon the people of this city to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

