

# News Release

March 8, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Amy Agbayani (589-2273)

## **CONGRESSMAN NEIL ABERCROMBIE ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN FOR GOVERNOR OF HAWAII**

Honolulu, Hawaii: Congressman Neil Abercrombie announced today that he will run for Governor of Hawaii in 2010, and launched a campaign that focuses on the issues of economic recovery, energy independence, and expanded quality education.

“During these challenging times, we need strong political leadership that will bring people together to create a far-reaching vision for Hawaii's future,” he said.

As one of the first members of Congress to support Barack Obama for president, and Honorary Chairman of Hawaii's Obama campaign, Abercrombie said he is bringing the Obama message of hope and change to Hawaii.

He added, “I saw how we could run a different kind of campaign that involved and inspired people and ultimately brought change to the Nation. Now, we must do the same for Hawaii.”

Congressman Abercrombie's public announcement this morning from his campaign headquarters followed a video release to his supporters through his website, [NeilAbercrombie.com](http://NeilAbercrombie.com) that was also broadcast on YouTube.

He called on them, and all Hawaii citizens, to get involved to “Bringing Change Home” – the theme of his announcement. Abercrombie plans to seek advice from experienced practitioners and fresh new thinkers to develop policies that address critical needs in Hawaii today.

Abercrombie's 30 years in elective office includes experience as a Honolulu city council member, state representative and state senator, and U.S. congressman. He noted that his relationships with the President and lawmakers at all levels of government will serve the people of Hawaii well.

“Running for Governor is the culmination of a lifetime of public service. I love working with legislators and the public. People feel let down by government. They don't want government to do everything. But they do want it to do what it is supposed to do and do it well,” said Abercrombie.

“The Office of Governor is not a stepping stone for me. To me, the Governor is the cornerstone for Hawaii’s future. I can leverage my experience and relationships in Washington D.C. and use them for Hawaii’s benefit.”

“The Obama campaign brought a new sense of unity, purpose and focus to the entire nation. That determination to bring a new spirit of participation in politics did not end with the Inauguration,” said Abercrombie. “I’m running for Governor to bring the change that Hawaii needs and wants to believe in. Together, let’s bring hope and change to the Hawaii we love.”

After the Honolulu announcement, Abercrombie flies to Maui and Kauai to meet with supporters and the community. He plans to travel to Kona and Hilo on Monday before returning to Washington D.C. that evening.

###