

# Ripon Profile

**Name:** Linda Lingle

**Hometown:** St. Louis, Missouri

**Current job:** Governor, State of Hawai'i.

**Hobbies:** Swimming 3,000 yards, four times per week and walking regularly, reading and watching movies.

**Songs on my playlist:** Primarily Hawaiian music, including "Just Along for the Ride", by Na Leo, a trio of local women. I also listen to rock n' roll and country music.

**Books that I'd recommend:** I enjoy reading biographies – in particular, I would recommend: *Japanese Eyes American Hearts: Personal Reflections of Hawai'i's World War II Nisei Soldiers*, by the Hawai'i Nikkei History Editorial Board; *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin; and *The World is Flat*, by Thomas Friedman.

**Inspiration:** My grandmother had a profound influence on my life. I greatly admired her wisdom and love for seeing the "good in people."

After graduating from California State University – Northridge with a degree in Journalism, I moved to Hawai'i, where I had the opportunity to cover the political landscape and become involved in my community. I saw the difference one person could make in the lives of others, and was drawn to public service.

**Most important issues facing America:** It is essential that we equip and significantly increase the number of secondary school graduates with world-class analytical and problem solving skills developed through science, technology, engineering and math education. In Hawai'i, my Administration is proposing specialized math and science programs for junior high and high school students designed to prepare Hawai'i's youth to succeed in an increasingly global economy. We will also incorporate business internships in our education system to expose our students to a variety of career choices.

Along the same lines, my Administration is proposing several initiatives to help Hawai'i's existing workforce quickly acquire the skills needed for gainful employment in emerging, innovative industries. Through these proposals, we hope to cultivate a quality 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.

