



Proclamation

Practicing safe driving etiquette while operating a motor vehicle is critical to ensuring road safety in our state, especially as motorcycles and other passenger vehicles share the streets. Although they represent less than a half percent of all vehicle miles traveled, motorcycle rider fatalities have increased for eight straight years and now comprise one out of every 10 U.S. road fatalities.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 4,553 motorcyclists lost their lives in fatal highway crashes in 2005, 56 percent of which involved another vehicle. Per vehicle mile traveled in 2005, motorcyclists were 37 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in traffic accidents. In the event of a crash, the drivers of other involved vehicles often say they never saw the motorcyclist or were unable to respond in time.

In the State of Hawai'i, there were 30 motorcycle fatalities in 2005 – a 43 percent increase from 2004. Of those 30 deaths, 22 of the victims, or 73 percent, were not wearing a helmet.

Hawai'i has a tradition of “driving with *aloha*,” and there are practical steps all motorists can take to help reduce the number of accidents involving motorcycles, which would thereby reduce the number of traffic fatalities in our islands. Everyone who rides a motorcycle, motor scooter or moped should wear a motorcycle helmet as a lifesaving protective measure against serious head trauma in a crash. Those driving other vehicles should “share the road” with motorcycles and remain alert and attentive when driving near motorcyclists.

During the month of May, the Hawai'i State Department of Transportation will partner with motorcycle clubs, police departments and other community groups to raise awareness and promote safety in order to reduce the number of motorcycle accidents and resulting fatalities.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. “DUKE” AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **May 2007** as

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

in Hawai'i, and encourage all of our citizens to drive safely and courteously when sharing the road with others.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this ninth day of May 2007.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

James R. “Duke” Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i