

# Proclamation

Car crashes are the leading cause of death for young people in the United States, and cause more teen deaths each year than drugs, violence or suicide. Teen drivers ages 16–19 die at four times the rate of adult drivers ages 25–69.

Studies show that most teen driver crashes are due to driver error caused by inexperience and distraction. A child passenger's risk of dying in a crash with a teen driver doubles, and most teen passengers who die in a vehicular accident were riding with a teen driver.

The Hawai'i Graduated Driver Licensing Law Program was created as a solution to decrease fatal and non-fatal crash risk among teens in our state. These laws require a lengthened learning phase beginning at age 16, as well as other restrictions for new drivers. Other restrictions include nighttime driving and the number of passengers teens may carry. Also, the newly enacted cell phone law also helps to reduce driving distraction on O'ahu.

In 2007, Congress passed a resolution establishing the third week in October as National Teen Driver Safety Week to remind the public about teen driver safety and continue educational efforts to discuss driver safety and in-car responsibility among teens, parents, the community and government leaders.

In Hawai'i, the Department of Education has promoted teen safety campaigns at high schools including Kalaheo, Kaimukī, Kahuku, Roosevelt and Campbell. Kalaheo's Peer Education Program won \$1,000 from the National Youth Traffic Safety Month this year. Their public awareness campaign, "Go-Pher It Buckle Up" encouraged motorists to wear safety belts.

In addition, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) will launch their annual "Tie One On For Safety" campaign in mid-November, in conjunction with their annual conference. The campaign urges people to secure red ribbons on their cars as a pledge to drive safe and sober, and to remind others to do the same.


For the fourth straight year, State Farm Insurance is offering its "Shift Into Safety" grant program, which invites students to design and carry out educational campaigns that inform their classmates and community about the risks young drivers face, and how to reduce them. The best campaigns can earn grants up to \$5,000.

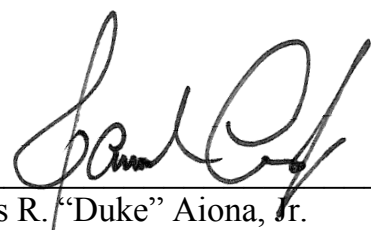
**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE**, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **October 19–24, 2009**, as

## TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK

in Hawai'i, and encourage our residents to do their part in keeping our teen drivers and passengers safe.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this thirteenth day of October 2009.

  
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Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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