

Recommendations to Reduce Motor Vehicle-Related Fatalities & Injuries in Hawaii County – January 2008

To Submit to Hawaii County Council, Hawaii County Mayor, Hawaii County Legislators and Governor and Lt. Governor, State of Hawaii

Whereas, between the years 2001 to 2006, Hawaii County had a fatality rate from motor vehicle crashes which was three times higher than the City and County of Honolulu and twice the rates of Maui and Kauai Counties; and

Whereas, these numbers do not include fatalities in the National Parks or on private subdivision roads; and

Whereas, according to a recent State Department of Transportation report, 10 of the 11 most dangerous intersections or stretches of roadway in the State are located on Hawaii Island; and

Whereas, out of the 107 intersections examined statewide, the three worst are on the Pahoia Bypass at Kapoho-Pahoia Road, Kahakai Boulevard and Old Pahoia Road, with a motorist being able to drive past all three intersections in little more than a mile; and

Whereas, the Mayor, Hawaii County Police Department, Hawaii County Prosecutor's Office, Hawaii County Mass Transit Agency, Hawaii County District Health Office, Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii State Department of Transportation, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and the Motor Vehicle Crash Reduction Group are working to analyze and reduce this disproportionately high death rate in Hawaii County; and

Whereas, the Motor Vehicle Crash Reduction Group has been meeting regularly for the past four years with the mission to support reducing motor vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities in Hawaii County.

We recommend that:

- A. Hawaii County and the State of Hawaii identify Hawaii County Motor Vehicle Related (MVR) fatalities and injuries as a priority issue requiring leadership, a collaborative approach and additional resources to assure improvement.**
- B. Hawaii County and the State of Hawaii collaborate to support improvement of data collection, assessment, and dissemination to relevant traffic safety partners (Police, Public Works, DOT, EMS, Dept. of Health – District Office, Dept. of Liquor Control and Mass Transit) to help the safety partners more effectively allocate resources to reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries in Hawaii County.**
 1. Hawaii County adopt the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) standards for counting and disseminating the information on the number of motor vehicle-related fatalities and crashes quarterly and annually.
 2. Hawaii County target reducing impaired driving, because alcohol is the probable cause of approximately 50% of Motor Vehicle Related fatalities in Hawaii County, and because there is evidence that interventions to reduce impaired driving are effective in reducing traffic fatalities.

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For measuring the effect of the impaired driving interventions, set a goal of a 10% reduction in the benchmarks below by the end of year 2009.

Benchmark 1 - The two year average annual number of *alcohol-related fatal crashes.

Benchmark 2 - The two year average annual number of *alcohol-related fatalities.

Benchmark 3 - The two -year average percent of *alcohol-related fatal crashes.

3. The Mayor and County Council support INTER-AGENCY collaboration to obtain timely accurate crash data and effectively use it to guide allocation of Hawaii County resources for traffic safety. The goal is to develop a working process, or system, for sharing timely high crash location information with other agencies; so that problems are identified early, effective interventions are designed, implemented and evaluated. Obstacles to the process would be identified and solutions proposed, such as:
 - o Improving access to timely accurate crash data.
 - o Improving traffic safety information and integrated safety management systems, which provide timely accurate information to safety partners.

C. Hawaii County implements the following evidence-based interventions:

1. Support full and effective staffing of Hawaii County Police Department and the traffic enforcement unit. Continue to support ongoing Driving Under the Influence (DUI) training consistent with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) guidelines for police and prosecutors.
2. Continue to fund the Hawaii Traffic Safety Coordinator to support Hawaii County traffic safety efforts and high visibility enforcement of impaired driving laws.
3. Support effective staffing of the Hawaii County Police Drug Recognition Evaluation (DRE) Program.
4. Support enforcement of recent traffic safety legislation including: excessive speed, high blood alcohol content (BAC), and child safety seat laws.
5. Support Community Roads Safety Watch Efforts – Solutions 2000 efforts to report speeding, impaired and reckless driving to 911 and/or non-emergency reporting line; currently 935-3311.
6. Review and support - where appropriate and feasible - the strategies found in the Hawaii Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2007 – 2012.

D. Hawaii County develop an integrated planning and design process for improvement in roads, Emergency Medical Services and public transportation in Hawaii.

* **Alcohol-related traffic crashes** are defined by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to include any and all vehicular (including bicycle and motorcycle) accidents in which any alcohol has been consumed, or believed to have been consumed, by the driver, a passenger or a pedestrian associated with the accident (Alcohol-related traffic crashes in the United States. (2007 September 24). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 20:18, January 11, 2008, from http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Alcohol-related_traffic_crashes_in_the_United_States&oldid=160037348).

DUI-related crashes are crashes in which one of the drivers involved in a crash, tests positive for blood alcohol concentration over the legal limit, (BAC) of 0.08 % or greater.