

Summary

Too Many People Are Dying

Too many innocent victims die from traffic crashes on Hawaii County roads.

Drunk driving is responsible for more than half of the traffic deaths in Hawaii County.

Impaired driving deaths and injuries are 100% preventable.

Reducing traffic deaths from impaired driving is a shared responsibility of:

- Enforcement
- Emergency Medical Systems
- Engineering
- Everyone Else
 - Government (State and County)
 - Employers
 - Restaurants, Bars, and Stores selling alcohol
 - Media
 - Community and Advocacy
 - Schools, Coaches, Parent Teacher Associations, and Drivers Education
 - Parents
 - Families and Friends

Because so many people on the Big Island have been touched personally by traffic deaths or serious injuries of family or friends, traffic safety has become a grass roots issue. This has led to strong island-wide collaboration to: reduce drinking and driving, enforce DUI laws, improve DUI laws, improve roads, bike paths, and pedestrian walkways, and improve access to timely trauma care. There is also growing collaboration at the state level through the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Some progress has been made. The traffic deaths in Hawaii County decreased between 2004-2009.

However, the number of traffic deaths for the first half of 2010 is 19, compared to 14 for the same time frame for 2009. This reflects a 35% increase. Too many people die from traffic crashes on Hawaii County roads.

Reducing traffic deaths and injuries from impaired driving is a shared responsibility.

This report is dedicated to the victims and their families and friends in appreciation for their efforts to prevent further loss of life from drunk driving.

Together, we can prevent impaired driving deaths and injuries!

- Sharon H. Vitousek, M.D.

Director, North Hawaii Outcomes Project

-Lisa Onorato,

Program Coordinator

Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Hawaii County