

# SUMMARY

## Too Many Innocent Victims Die from Drunk Driving Crashes

Too many innocent victims die from drunk driving traffic crashes in Hawaii County. Drunk driving is responsible for more than half of the fatal crashes in Hawaii County. Drunk driving deaths and injuries are 100% preventable.

Because so many people in Hawaii County have been affected by traffic deaths or serious injuries of family or friends, drunk driving has become a community issue. This has led to strong island-wide collaboration to: reduce drinking and driving, increase enforcement of DUI laws, improve DUI laws, improve roads, bike paths, and pedestrian walkways, and improve access to timely trauma care, by using evidence-based strategies.

The traffic deaths in Hawaii County decreased between 2000-2011 by 52%. Progress has been made. Unfortunately, traffic deaths in 2012 in Hawaii County have risen substantially to 32 as of 10/14/12, compared to a total of 23 deaths for all of 2011. More action is needed.

Reducing drunk driving deaths is a shared responsibility of:

- Enforcement
- Emergency Medical Systems
- Engineering
- 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

Protecting our families and friends from becoming innocent victims of drunk drivers will require additional actions by each group of stakeholders, including you and me.

- Sharon H. Vitousek, M.D.  
Director, North Hawaii Outcomes Project