

Proclamation

Motorcycle use has become an increasingly popular means of transportation and recreation in our islands. While motorcycles help to reduce traffic congestion and conserve fossil fuels, they also leave their riders more vulnerable to injury an accident. In the tradition of “driving with aloha,” it is important for Hawai‘i residents and visitors to be courteous to help decrease accidents involving motor vehicles and motorcycles.

All drivers on Hawai‘i roadways have the power to make good decisions about traffic safety. There are practical steps we can take to help reduce the number of accidents and traffic fatalities in our islands. Everyone who rides a motorcycle, motor scooter or moped should act responsibility, adhering to the speed limit and complying with traffic laws. Moreover, protective gear is a must, including helmets, gloves, brightly colored clothing, long-sleeved shirts or jackets, long pants and shoes or boots. In the event of a crash, a motorcycle helmet can be the difference between life and death. Today, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, only 20 states have laws requiring all motorcyclists to wear a helmet. Hawai‘i has a partial motorcycle helmet law, requiring riders 17 years old and younger to wear a helmet.

For those driving automobiles, we encourage you to share the road and remain alert and attentive at all times, especially when driving near motorcyclists. When vehicle drivers are extra considerate of motorcyclists, accidents can be prevented.

Each May, in observance of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, the Hawai‘i Department of Transportation will partner with motorcycle clubs, police departments and other organizations to raise awareness and promote safe driving through education, enforcement and outreach in the community.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of Hawai‘i, and **I, JAMES R. “DUKE” AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor, do hereby proclaim **May 2009**, as

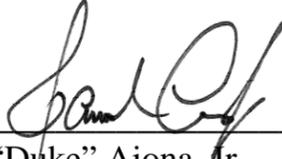
MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

in the Hawai‘i, and encourage our citizens, both motorcyclists and other drivers, to remember the importance of motorcycle safety and sharing the road.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i, this twelfth day of May 2009.



Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai‘i



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