

# ENSURING MOTORCYCLE AND MOPED SAFETY

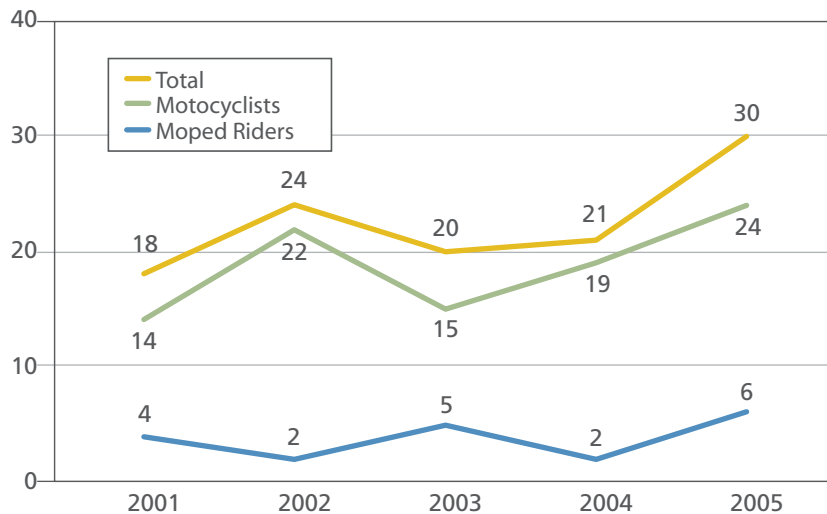
**The Challenge:**  
Reduce the number of motorcycle and moped crashes in Hawaii.

## BACKGROUND

On average, 23 motorcycle and moped riders are killed in traffic crashes each year in Hawaii. The fatalities have been on the rise, with 18 fatalities in 2001 and 30 in 2005. The 30 fatalities in 2005 accounted for nearly 22 percent of all motor vehicle accident fatalities that year, the second highest percentage in the nation. Only about one-third (32 percent) of the victims were wearing a helmet at the time of the crash and only about half (52 percent) of the victims had a valid license. Findings from the Queen's Medical Center Trauma Registry show that helmeted riders have significantly lower incidence of traumatic brain injury (37 vs. 64 percent for non-helmeted riders), and lower overall fatality rates (2.8 vs. 5.5 percent). There are also significant increasing trends in alcohol involvement and speeding in fatal crashes, with 18 percent involvement for both factors in 2001, increasing to 43 and 53 percent respectively in 2005.

From 2001 to 2005, there were on average, 718 non-fatal motorcycle and moped crashes a year in Hawaii. This statistic has also been on the rise, with 691 crashes in 2001 and 743 in 2005. Data suggest that this increasing trend is strongly related to the growing popularity of motorcycles and mopeds, as well as the increased burden on facilities available for training.

FIGURE 8  
**Annual Number of Motorcyclists and Moped Riders Killed in Traffic Crashes in Hawaii, 2001-2005.**





## STRATEGIES

### LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

- Increase penalties for excessive speeding.
- Enact a universal helmet law.
- Revise Hawaii Administrative Rules 19-123 (motorcycle rider education) to facilitate licensing for instructors and encourage instructors to apply.
- Increase penalties for high-risk riders (impaired, unlicensed, speeding), as they are involved in a disproportionately high number of crashes and fatalities.
- Provide increased funding for motorcycle and moped safety programs.
- Identify new technology that can detect motorcycle speeds more effectively.



### EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ACTION

- Develop public information programs to encourage sharing of the road and how to drive safely around motorcycles and mopeds.
- Encourage inexperienced riders to participate in training before going out on the roadways.
- Create a motorcycle and moped safety clearinghouse Web site to increase access to information and spread awareness.

### ENGINEERING

- Plan, design, and maintain roadways with motorcycle and moped safety in mind.

### DATA NEEDS

- Improve data for motorcycle-specific crashes in order to identify key areas for prioritizing resources.

