



# Proclamation

The way a child sits in a vehicle could be the difference between life and death. In America, traffic accidents are the leading cause of death among children over the age of 1. However, by using a properly installed child safety seat, fatalities can be reduced by as much as 71 percent for infants, and 54 percent for toddlers.

Hawai'i's child passenger restraint law requires children under the age of 4 to ride in a federally approved child safety seat, and children ages 4 through 8 to ride in a child safety seat or booster seat. Drivers who do not abide by this law can be fined up to \$500. Last year, the four county police departments issued a total of 937 child restraint violations.

Though child safety seats can save lives, they must be used properly in order to do so. If a child safety seat is not installed correctly, the seat could become too loose or the harness straps might not be tight enough. Other problems could occur if the child safety seat tether is not correctly used, the harness retainer clip is not at the armpit level and harness straps are not adjusted properly.

In an effort to boost the road safety of our keiki, the Hawai'i State Department of Transportation will kick-off a statewide campaign to promote child passenger safety. This month, the DOT is providing federal grants to each county to conduct child passenger safety activities, and giving additional resources to the four county police departments to enforce the child passenger restraint law.

We appreciate the ongoing commitment to child passenger safety displayed by the DOT; Maui Police Department; Kaua'i Police Department; Hawai'i Country Police Department; Honolulu Police Department; State Board of Education; Queen's Hospital; Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition; and Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children.

**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.,** Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **September 12 – 18, 2009** as

## **CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK**

in Hawai'i, and urge all citizens to become involved in supporting efforts to increase the safety of Hawai'i's keiki properly by utilizing child safety seats.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this eighth day of September 2009.

Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.  
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i