

Keiki Passenger Safety & New Booster Seat Law

It's the Law.

Beginning on January 1, 2007, Hawaii will be the 35th state to have a booster seat law. The new law will require children between the ages of four through seven to ride in a booster seat whenever traveling in a motor vehicle. The only exemptions are if the child is over 4'9" or if the vehicle has lap-only seat belts in the rear seat.

A Hawaii State tax credit of \$25 per year applies to the purchase of a booster or child safety seat.

The driver is held responsible for compliance with the law. Violators of Hawaii's Child Passenger Restraint Law are required to attend a 4-hour class and may be assessed a fine of between \$100-\$500 depending upon the number of offenses. However, the most compelling reason for using a booster seat is the safety of your child.

Basic guidelines on the proper use of booster seats:

Use for children between the ages of four through seven, unless at least 4'9" tall.

Use until the vehicle lap and shoulder belt fit correctly. (The lap belt should fit low and snug on their hips, and the shoulder belt should not cross over a child's face or neck.)

Never put the shoulder belt behind a child's back or under their arm.

A high back or low back booster with no shield may be used.

Never Hold Your Infant Or Child In Your Lap.

A crash or sudden stop can result in a serious injury or even a fatality.

Who should use a booster seat?

Each year, more than 700 children, between the ages of four through seven, are involved in major car crashes in Hawaii. Statistics show that children unrestrained by seat belts are at least 50% more at risk for injury than children in a child safety seat or booster seat.

The proper use of child passenger restraints, such as a booster seat, is the most important factor in preventing death and injury in a car crash. Seat belts are designed for older children and adults, not for children under the age of eight, whose size and physical development make seat belts less effective, and in some cases, unsafe.

A child under 80 lbs. is generally too small for an adult seat belt. The lap belt rides up over the stomach and the shoulder belt cuts across the neck. In a crash this can cause critical or even fatal injuries.

When children outgrow child restraints with a harness, between 40 and 65 lbs. depending on seat weight limit, they should be restrained in a booster seat until they are big enough to fit in an adult seat belt (approximately 80 lbs. and 4'9" tall).

A child who cannot sit with his or her back against the vehicle seat back cushion with knees bent over the vehicle's seat edge without slouching, must use a booster seat no matter what age, weight or height.

Using a booster seat can save your child's life. Come to one of the free child safety seat check-ups listed on the Event Calendar or call your nearest Safety Seat Inspection Station listed for an appointment.

Key Points Relating to the Booster Seat Law

1. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children 4 years and older.
2. A booster seat is a "child belt-positioning seat". Children who are 4 to 8 years old often are not big enough for the seat belt safety harness to fit them properly. As a result, in a car crash they may sustain serious injuries to their neck, spine, abdominal organs and lower extremities. The booster seat positions the child so that the safety harness fits properly and can truly protect him or her.
3. Cost: The cost of a good quality high back booster seat is \$45. This is a "combination" booster seat which means it can be purchased and used as a car seat when the child is younger than 4 years. When the child is 4 years it can be converted to a booster seat and will be used for the next 4 years. The \$45. is a one time expense. Over the 4 years the cost for this passenger safety device is \$11.25 per year. The purchaser will receive a \$25. tax credit from the State of Hawaii.
4. In Hawaii there are approximately 68,000 children in the age group, 4 to 8 years.

Reference:

Selecting and Using the Most Appropriate Car Safety Seats for Growing Children: Guidelines for Counseling Parents.

AAP Committee on Injury and Poison Prevention; Pediatrics pp 550-553 Vol. 109 No.3 March 2002

Booster seats can be purchased at baby stores, military exchanges, and some discount and department stores.

Child Safety Seat Inspection Stations		
The following sites will offer education on correctly installing your child safety seat. Be sure to call first for an appointment. Appointments will be dependent upon the availability of trained Keiki Passenger Safety Technicians. Mahalo!		
location	contact	sponsor
OAHU Kahuku Hospital 56-117 Pualalea Street Kahuku, HI 96731	Alice Mello 293-9221 x372	Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC)
Kalihi Palama Health Center 915 North King St. Honolulu, HI 96817	Lois Arakaki 848-1438	KIPC
KMCWC - Rehabilitation Services Dept. (Special Needs child passenger safety)	Jill Taosaka 483-4917	KIPC
Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children 1319 Punahou St. Honolulu, HI 96826	Kapi'olani Health Connections 535-7000	KIPC
Marine Corp Base HI (Military, Dependent, and Civilian Base employees)	Maria Giovanetty 257-1830	KIPC

The Queen's Medical Center 1301 Punchbowl Street Honolulu, HI 96813	Queen's Referral Line 537-7117	KIPC
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center 86-260 Farrington Hwy. Waianae, HI 96792	Ivy Johnson 696-1548	KIPC
Waimanalo Health Center 41-1347 Kalaniana'ole Hwy Waimanalo, HI 96795	Pi'ilani Kai 259-7948 x120	KIPC
BIG ISLAND Department of Health 1582 Kamehameha AvenueHilo, HI 96720	John Kaizuka 933-0911	Partners For Safe Keiki (Big Island KIPC)
Kau Resource Center 96-3126 Puahala St.Pahala, HI 96777	Jessie Marques 928-0101	Partners For Safe Keiki (Big Island KIPC)
Kealakekua Health Center 81-980 Halekii St., #103 Kealakekua, HI 96750	Carrie Kuwada 322-4880	Partners For Safe Keiki (Big Island KIPC)
Laupahoehoe Train Museum 36-2377 Mamalaloa HighwayLaupahoehoe, HI 96764	Doug Connors 962-6300	Partners For Safe Keiki (Big Island KIPC)
Malama Hoopili PonoKeawe Health Center 46 Keawe St.Hilo, HI 96720- 2459	Sandy Tomiyama 974-4290	Partners For Safe Keiki (Big Island KIPC)
Safe Drivers Hawai'i 851 Leilani St.Hilo, Hawaii 96720	Curt Hong 959-4233	Partners For Safe Keiki (Big Island KIPC)
MAUI Dept. of Fire & Public Safety Training Bureau Kahului, HI 96732	Captain James Kino 270-7565	Safe Community of Maui, Inc.
Hana Fire Station 54 Hana Highway Hana, HI 96713	248-7525	Safe Community of Maui, Inc.
Home Street Bank 871 Kolu St. Suite 102 Wailuku, HI 96793	Kelvin Dang 244-2281 and 268-0992	Safe Community of Maui, Inc.
Kahului Fire Station 200 Dairy Road Kahului, HI 96732	270-7911	Safe Community of Maui, Inc.

Lanai Fire Station Lanai City, HI 96763	Ivy 565-6428	Safe Community of Maui, Inc.
Molokai Fire Station Kaunakakai, HI 96748	553-5601	Safe Community of Maui, Inc.
Napili Fire Station 4950 Hanawai Place Napili, HI	669-4300	Safe Community of Maui, Inc.
Neighborhood Place of Wailuku 399 Market St. Suite 101 Wailuku, HI 96793	Dolly Hinao 986-0700	Safe Community of Maui, Inc.
Servco Lexus of Maui 445 Kele Street Kahului, HI 96732	Mark 877-4411	Safe Community of Maui, Inc.
State Farm Claims Office One Main Plaza Wailuku, HI 96793	Wayne Yamamura 244-7911	Safe Community of Maui, Inc.
State Judiciary-Maui 2050 Main Street Wailuku, HI 96793	Kimberly Hue Sing 442-4002	Safe Community of Maui, Inc.
Wailea Fire Station Kilohana Drive and Kapili Street Wailea, HI	874-8520	Safe Community of Maui, Inc.
KAUAI Department of Health 3040 Umi StreetLihue, HI 96766	Edie Watanabe 241-3376	Kauai Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition
Medic-20 American Medical Response 9925 Ula PlaceWaimea, HI 96796	Tom Veatch 338-1868 (By Appointment Only)	Kauai Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition
Medic-21 American Medical Response 3217 Palai StreetLihue, HI 96766	Zach Octavio 245-7000 (Walk-ins Welcome)	Kauai Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition
Medic-22 American Medical Response Sandpiper Unit 126 Hanalei, HI 96714	George Mones 826-9551 (Walk-ins Welcome)	Kauai Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition
Medic-23 American Medical Response 1273 Ulu StreetKapaa, HI 96746	Danny Sagadraca 822-1600 (By Appointment Only)	Kauai Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition

For more information about child passenger safety, call the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition at 537-9200

From website: <http://www.kipchawaii.org/SafetyFacts/TrafficSafety/keikisafety.aspx>