

Ka Leo O Nā Koa Presents...

Decide to Drive

"It Can Wait"

Say NO to DD



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A look into...

DISTRACTED DRIVING

By DAISY DRAPER, staff writer

In 2011, 3,331 people were killed in auto crashes caused by distracted driving, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration's *Summary of Statistical Findings* from their National Occupant Protection Use Survey.

The Hawai'i State Department of Health said that almost 10% of Hawai'i auto fatalities were caused by distracted drivers from 2007-2010.

Distracted driving is a threat to drivers and pedestrians across America, but Hawai'i recently became the 40th state to enact a distracted driving law.

Hawai'i driving laws

Governor Neil Abercrombie banned texting while driving when he signed Bill HB980 HD2 SD2 into law on May 20, 2013. The law also prohibits the use of other handheld devices for all drivers, but hands-free devices are okay for drivers over 21.

"The use of cellular phones or other mobile electronic de-

VICES during the task of driving constitutes a distraction and poses a risk of harm to the driver and others in the vehicle or on the road," said *Highway Safety; Use of Mobile Electronic Devices*, the report that accompanies the bill.

Consequences

One of the consequences of distracted driving is injury.

Nalani Wickes, a nurse for Hawai'i Life Flight air ambulance, said the injuries she has seen as a result of distracted driving are "head injuries and broken ribs." she said that in her experience, "The age range of people who get injured [from distracted driving] is 18-30 years old".

Another consequence for driving while distracted is a fine. The police departments in Hawai'i issued 20,905 distracted driving citations statewide in 2012, according

to the Hawai'i Department of Transportation.

Penalties for distracted driving increase with the number of occurrences.

For the first offense, a driver is fined \$100-200. On the second offense, the fine is \$200-300, and the third offense will cost \$300-500. The fine is doubled in a school or construction zone.

Forms of distracted driving

Distracted driving includes texting, using a cellphone, eating and drinking, talking to passengers, grooming, reading, using a navigation system, watching a video, and adjusting the radio or CD player.

Texting while driving is a distraction because it requires

the driver's visual, manual, and cognitive attention. It is the most common distraction.

What to do

There are many ways to avoid distracted driving. Because talking on a cellphone also requires the driver's cognitive attention, drivers should make phone calls before or after driving. If the phone rings while the car is in motion, let it go to voicemail.

Better yet, use the AT&T DriveMode app. When the app is enabled, and the car is moving at 25 mph or more, it sends a custom auto-reply message to incoming texts letting friends know you are driving and that you will get back to them when it's safe.

Talking to passengers may not seem like a distraction, but it causes drivers to focus on conversation and not the road.

Passengers should be taught the importance of being

"Having [electronic devices] in your possession [while driving] is against the law. It must be outside of reach."

—Lt. Ricky Uedol, Maui Police Department

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How do you stay focused on driving?

Students share how they avoid distractions while driving.



Tatiana Medeiros
senior

"Before I drive, I put my phone away so that it doesn't distract me."



Brandy Takiguchi
junior

"When my friends are driving, I'm the DJ and adjust the controls."



Iain Armitage
senior

"I ask my friends to answer phones or texts for me."



Bryant Kubo
junior

"While driving, I keep both eyes on the road and both hands on the wheel."

Photos by MAILE SUR

(Continued from page 2)

well-mannered in the car, and drivers should avoid excessive talking, arguing and horseplay.

Drivers also should avoid applying make-up or brushing their hair while driving, and reading a map is a definite don't. Use a GPS system or pull over to read a map.

Controls for music, mirrors, and air conditioning should be adjusted before the car is in motion. Passengers could also help by adjusting car controls for the driver on the road.

For more information, AT&T sponsors the It Can Wait campaign, dedicated to spreading awareness about the dangers of texting and driving. They ask drivers to pledge not to text and drive and to educate others about the texting and driving.

Their website, <http://www.itcanwait.com/>, contains videos and stories about texting while driving. It also has an interactive texting and driving simulator that will prove how difficult it can be to arrive alive when distracted by live text messages.



Get involved!

The Maui Police Department teams up with police throughout Hawai'i to target distracted driving. The combined police forces issued more than 20,000 citations for distracted driving in 2012.

Don't wait to get a ticket, or worse, get in an accident. Instead, get involved.

To learn about becoming a safety advocate in your community, visit:

- <http://www.focusdriven.org/>
- <http://decidetodrive.org/>
- <http://aaos.org/>
- <http://www.autoalliance.org/index.cfm>
- <http://www.distraction.gov/>

Survey says...



33
listened to music or adjusted controls



62
talked on a cellphone

By MAILE SUR, staff writer

Like everywhere else, Maui drivers try to do too much behind the wheel. We surveyed two of the busiest intersections on Maui. One group observed drivers at Kāne Street and Kahului Beach Road near Baldwin High School. Another group observed drivers at Haleakalā Highway and 'A'apueo Parkway outside of Kamehameha Schools Maui. The surveys were taken on Oct. 28, 5- 6 p.m. Traffic was steady. People were just finishing work, and students were leaving athletic practices.

In one hour, we saw 236 examples of distracted driving.



14
groomed



14
ate or drank



100
talked to others in the car



13
drove with pets



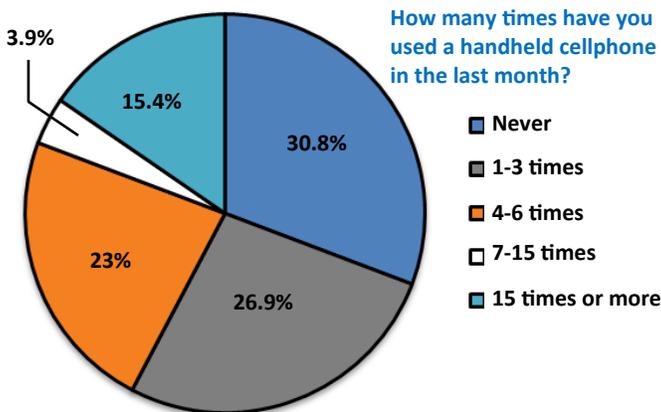
Photo by DESTINEE MURRAY

Spreading the word

By DESTINEE MURRAY, staff writer

Senior Daisy Aiwoho is raising awareness about distracted driving. She created a public service announcement for her senior project this summer, writing and recording a catchy jingle that said, "Don't text and drive, Don't glance at that phone, Don't text and drive." It's currently playing on local radio stations on Maui, O'ahu, and the Big Island.

Students open up



Graphic by MAILE SUR

In our recent survey, only about a third of KS Maui respondents reported that they had never used a handheld cellphone in the past month of driving.

By MAILE SUR, staff writer

Ka Leo O Nā Koa sent a survey to 239 juniors and seniors. We asked them what happens in their cars when they get behind the wheel. Thirty-two responded, and of those, 26 were licensed to drive.

The most frequently report-

ed distractions were eating and drinking and carrying passengers.

All of the respondents said that they drove with friends or family in the car at least 4 or more times a month. Nearly half said that they transported others more than 16 times a month.

Also, 95% of seniors and 71% of juniors said they had been guilty of distracted driving in the past month. Perhaps this is because three-quarters of the seniors and a little more than half of the juniors reported that they had used a handheld cellphone while driving. Numbers for hands-free devices were slightly better with around 42% of those drivers reporting their use.

A few also reported driving with pets or doing personal grooming behind the wheel.

The poll was conducted at www.surveymonkey.com, Oct. 28-Nov. 5.

Ka Leo o Nā Koa

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Mythbusting:**DD EDITION**

By JAYLIN KEKIWI, editor

If there is one thing that my mom always tells me, it's that my sister and I are part of a multitasking generation. She always says it fondly, as if she's impressed that we are able to hold two conversations at once, or surf the Internet while replying to a text.

I never thought anything of it. I have always thought that multitasking is a pretty cool concept. That meant that someone was doing double the work in half the amount of time, right? Surely nothing but good could come out of that.

Then my friends began driving, and I realized just how wrong I was.

I come from a family of safety-conscious drivers, meaning that we rarely play music unless it's played so quietly that the songs are practically muted, and conversations in the car are sparse.

My dad claims that distracted driving isn't driving at all.

My friends, on the other hand, blare their favorite songs at ear-shattering volumes, text while cruising down the highway, and even apply their mascara on the way to the movies.

Senior Matthew Paschoal says that multitasking isn't usually a problem for him.

"I always play music when I'm driving and sometimes I have to change the song," he said. "It's no big deal."

Is it really "no big deal?" Interestingly enough, Kamehameha Maui students seem to agree with this statement.

In our recent survey, all 27 respondents said they would rate their driving 3 or higher on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest. Of these choices, 4 was the most common self-rating. Not too shabby for people who have only been driving for a year or two, eh?

These same people are also self-professed multitask-

ers.

Multitasking, according to Merriam Webster, is the performance of multiple things at one time – the keywords being *at one time*.

Earl Miller, professor of neuroscience at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, says that people aren't actually capable of multitasking.

"You're not paying attention to one [task] while doing another," he said in an interview with National Public Radio in 2008. "They both involve communicating via speech or the written word, and so there's a lot of conflict between the two of them."



Graphic by JAYLIN KEKIWI

I (along with Miller and other MIT researchers) have concluded this: multi-tasking while driving isn't possible.

People can't eat their favorite food without taking their eyes off the road – technically. They can't check a Snapchat photo without peeking down at their phones – technically.

No one multitasks – especially not while driving.

In fact, ultimately, you're only putting yourself and others in danger.

Distraction.gov, a website that campaigns against distracted driving, states that

you're two times more likely to get into a crash if you're texting while driving.

This statistic isn't enough to stop a third of teenagers, ages 16-17, from texting when they're on the road. Neither does it scare the 52% of teenagers who say they have talked on the phone while driving, according to a 2009 study by the Pew Research Center.

So why do we continue to do things like text while driving? Are we so obsessed with our food that we can't hold off that bite of hamburger until we get home? Are we too connected to our phones to

Three people we know share their

Distracted driving disasters

By DESTINEE MURRAY, staff writer

'One of those days'

Who: Tobi Monden, senior
When: school night in March
Where: Foodland, Pukalani
How: Texting
What: Car-to-car collision while turning left

Result:

Damage to bumper and wheels, Monden had to work to pay the \$7,000 in damages

Comment: "It was just one of those days."

Happy Father's Day

Who: Mālia Molina, senior
When: Father's Day 2012, past curfew

Where: Wailuku Heights

How: Upset about a recent argument

What: Made a left turn instead of yielding

Result: Damage to rear end and axle of Molina's car, neck pain in other car's driver

Comment:

"It was an eye-opening experience... I couldn't stop crying the next day."

A sad tale

Who: Brooke Smith, 27-year-old mother and niece of Mrs. Cheryl Wicklund, KSM administrative coordinator

When: Five or six years ago

Where: Northern California

How: Tending to her child on her lap and texting

What: Veered off the road into a tree

Result: Smith died on impact and all five of her children were put in the custody of Smith's mother

Comment:

"You never [know what could happen] in that split second." – Mrs. Wicklund

person makes twenty decisions for every mile driven. Do you really want that one decision to change the radio station to be the one decision to regret for the rest of your life...if you have one?