

HDOT URGES HAWAII DRIVERS TO BE AWARE, MOVE OVER FOR WORKERS ON THE ROAD

Event at Highways Oahu District office highlights coming of “buffer zones” for road construction; penalties for failing to move over or slowdown in work areas

HONOLULU – It's National Work Zone Awareness Week and the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) is reminding everyone of the importance of driving safely in all work zones, including construction zones along Hawaii's roads. In honor of the campaign Aloha Tower is illuminated in orange to help spread awareness for the safety messaging (pictures are below).

“Our emergency responders, work crews, and construction workers all have a part in keeping our roadways safe for drivers every day,” said Governor David Ige. “We need to do our part to keep them safe.”

“Each of the past three years, Hawaii has suffered three work zone related fatalities,” said HDOT Director Jade Butay. “This year we've already experienced one work zone crash resulting in a death. This is a trend that must be reversed.”

National statistics from 2016, the latest year of available data, reveals that 765 people were killed in highway work zone crashes across the country. Many of these deaths could have been prevented if the drivers involved had slowed down and followed construction zone signage.

“We want to make sure everyone understands that there is a reason for construction speed limits and buffer zones,” said HDOT Deputy Director for Highways Ed Sniffen. “The reason is that we want everyone working on our roads to get home safely.”

Major Ryan Nishibun of the Honolulu Police Department Traffic Division highlighted the state's Move Over law, which requires drivers approaching an emergency vehicle to move over or slow down to a reasonable and prudent speed. Failure to comply with the Move Over law may result in a traffic citation, followed by a mandatory court appearance and up to a \$1000 fine.