

HAWAII NEWS

Teen death occurred amid sharp rise in traffic fatalities on Oahu



By Nina Wu


Today • *Last updated 10:51 a.m.*

The tragic death of a 14-year-old boy struck by a car Wednesday morning in Ewa Beach has prompted a call for more awareness and safety on Oahu's roadways.

First responders said that about 7:42 a.m. the boy was struck while traversing a crosswalk on an electric dirt bike on Kolowaka Drive near Fort Weaver Road. Paramedics rushed him in critical condition to a hospital, where he later died.

Campbell High School confirmed it was one of its students.

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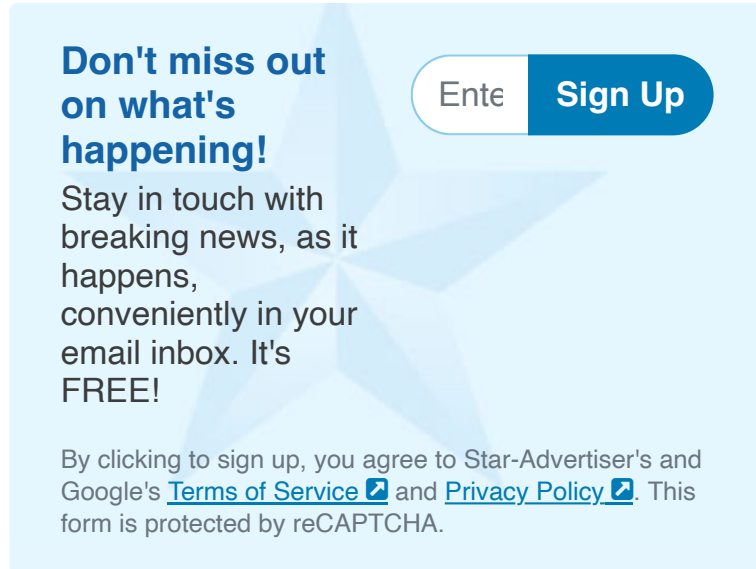
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“On behalf of the entire Campbell High ohana, we extend our deepest condolences to the student’s family, friends, classmates and teachers,”Principal Jon Henry Lee said. “Out of respect for the family, we will not be releasing further details at this time. The Honolulu Police Department is investigating, and we are cooperating fully.”

Based on a preliminary report from HPD, a 75-year-old male driver struck the teen at the intersection while heading eastbound on Kolowaka. The teen was crossing against a “do not walk” signal, and was not wearing a helmet.

Both the driver and his juvenile passenger remained at the scene, and were not injured.

A light blue rectangular graphic with a faint star pattern in the background. On the left, the text 'Don't miss out on what's happening!' is in bold blue. Below it, in black, is 'Stay in touch with breaking news, as it happens, conveniently in your email inbox. It's FREE!'. On the right, there is a white button with 'Ente' and a blue button with 'Sign Up'. At the bottom, in small black text, is a disclaimer: 'By clicking to sign up, you agree to Star-Advertiser's and Google's Terms of Service and Privacy Policy. This form is protected by reCAPTCHA.'

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Social media sources say the boy was riding a Surron, but police have not confirmed that, describing him as an “electric motorcyclist.” The intersection is about 3 miles from Campbell High School.

HPD Interim Chief Rade K. Vanic urged all road users, whether drivers, pedestrians or bicyclists, to take extra precautions.

“Every life lost on our roads is one too many,” Vanic said. “Traffic safety is not just the responsibility of law enforcement — it is a shared kuleana. Whether you are behind the wheel, walking or riding, each of us plays a role in making sure everyone gets home safely.”

This was Oahu’s 54th traffic fatality so far this year, more than double the 26 at the

same time last year.

“It’s not numbers, it’s people we know,” said Vanic in a video release. “That’s my son, your daughter, that’s our kupuna, your aunty, uncle. These are people we know, and you know everyone has a responsibility to keep everyone we know safe.”

He urged people to drive the speed limit, wear their seat belts, and follow traffic laws. He urged pedestrians to not look at their cellphones while walking, and urged bicyclists to wear helmets.

Community reaction

The Ewa community, meanwhile, is reeling from the loss of a young boy’s life while he was likely on his way to school Wednesday morning.

Eduardo Hernandez, the Hawaii Bicycling League’s advocacy director, said this is why he was pushing for new legislation regulating the different types of e-bikes as part of efforts to improve safety and public awareness.

“Our hearts go out to his family and friends, and people who knew him,” Hernandez said. “It’s a tragedy that we experience too often here in our office. We take these very personally, and we really want to use every opportunity like this to call attention to

everybody's responsibility, particularly when you're at an intersection."

Hernandez says Fort Weaver is a dangerous, high-traffic corridor, where drivers tend to speed along the multiple lanes, and plow through yellow lights to avoid stopping at intersections.

Fort Weaver Road's design reflects "decades of prioritizing cars over people who walk and bike," he said

The collision was just a few blocks from where [two bicyclists](#) were fatality struck by a car while in a marked crosswalk in March 2024.

Alex Gaos, vice chair of the Ewa Neighborhood Board, said his heart skipped a beat when he saw the principal's letter Wednesday.

"These are highly traversed roads," he said. "People need to slow down."

Gaos said Fort Weaver Road was recently restriped to make it more bike-friendly, following a resolution passed by the neighborhood board. Police also have stepped up efforts to limit reckless e-bike riders in the area.

"The big challenge with e-bikes is they can go pretty fast, unlike a traditional bike where

you can get tired and it requires a lot of physical ability,” he said. “On these, you hit the lever and speed up. That’s inevitably going to introduce some additional risks.”

Doubling fatalities

Officials, meanwhile, are at a loss as to why the number of traffic fatalities has skyrocketed on Oahu this year.

Earlier this summer, the rates for Oahu were [also double](#) what they were last year, and have remained consistently so, even though officials continue to set up impaired-driver checkpoints and urge roadway safety.

At a news conference held in front of ‘Ilima Intermediate in Ewa before the school year started, officials shared that from January 2024 to June 2025, Honolulu Emergency Medical Services responded to 86 incidents involving injured keiki and teen e-bike riders.

Of that total, 60% were 14 years old or younger, which is too young to ride e-bikes, according to state law.

The “100 deadliest days of summer” — between Memorial Day and Labor Day — is coming to a close soon. But the number of fatal collisions has accelerated, including a recent spate of [fatal motorcycle crashes](#) attributed to speeding and loss of control.

Kids riding recklessly on e-bikes has become a community concern in recent years.

“I think it’s really important for parents and their children to have conversations,” said Hernandez, adding that HBL offers free e-bike classes, “and to specifically know what kind of device you’re going to give your child and how it operates, and what the laws are.”

Existing law requires kids in Hawaii to be 15 or older to ride a “low-speed, electric bicycle” registered to an adult in the household. All bicyclists under the age of 16 must wear a helmet according to state law.

The Honolulu City Council also passed recent legislation on e-bikes in response to community concerns.

The Council passed a new law requiring all e-bike riders under the age of 18 to wear a helmet, prohibited e-bikes exceeding 750 watts on public roads, and [banned wheelies](#) on e-bikes, mopeds and motorcycles while riding in public on Oahu.

TRAFFIC-RELATED DEATHS

More than half of traffic-related deaths in Hawaii have occurred on Oahu. Statistics are shown by counties.

Jan. 1 to Aug. 20, 2025

>> **State:** 25 vehicle occupants, 24 pedestrians, 27 motorcycle/moped operators, 5 bicyclists; 4 other nonoccupants* (85 total)

>> **Honolulu County:** 15 vehicle occupants, 14 pedestrians, 19 motorcycle/moped operators, 3 bicyclists; 3 other nonoccupants (54 total)

>> **Hawaii County:** 5 vehicle occupants, 5 pedestrians, 4 motorcyclists, 1 bicyclist (15 total)

>> **Maui County:** 5 vehicle occupants, 5 pedestrians, 3 motorcyclists (13 total)

>> **Kauai County:** 1 motorcyclist, 1 bicyclist, 1 other nonoccupant (3 total)

Source: State Department of Transportation

** Includes skateboarders, monowheel riders, foot scooter operators.*

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aloha4aq

1 hour ago

Does the DOE have a ban on e-bikes and e-scooters as a mode of transportation for getting to/from schools?

My sincerest condolences to both families.



Report

lowtone123

1 hour ago

No but I think the minimum age to ride one is 15.



2



Report

pochoboy

18 minutes ago

idk, but you'd think they could enforce on-campus






Report

pookiebear

2 hours ago

e-bikes are a precursor to speeding, pop wheeling adult motorcyclists. If the state doesn't regulate and enforce e-bike guidelines now, it will definitely get worse (as if it isn't already).




 1  Report 

jens_peter

2 hours ago

I often drive down that area of Ft. Weaver road to work out with one of my trainers. The number of children on e-bikes is staggering. They are all over the place and of course, there is no adult supervision.




It's like Sturgis South Dakota for Menhunes. I don't think there's any other area of Oahu where it's quite so bad. There will be more fatalities and the local politicians will wring their hands and wail that something must be done.

 2  Report 

Manoa_Rooster

1 hour ago (Edited)




Ewa Beach is a large area, so kids typically use bikes to get around. In today's society, E bikes are much "cooler" than conventional bicycles, and kids always strive to have the latest and greatest in material things, like \$1,200 cell phones, \$200 sneakers, expensive gold chain "bling", and yes....E bikes. Until societal values change, I don't think we'll see any decrease in E bike accidents involving young teens.

  Report 

BlueDolphin53

3 hours ago

Hawaii is just too lax on law and order. We are too civilized. After all, a law might offend someone's sensibilities. We don't want hurt feelings after all. Better to just keep our fingers crossed and hope people become enlightened enough to do the right thing themselves.

  Report 

Carang_da_buggahz

46 minutes ago

All the laws on the books mean nothing without ENFORCEMENT.



Report

st1d

3 hours ago

this past saturday over 100 motorized bikers raced through a boston freeway weaving between motorists and causing havoc on the freeway.

so far, motorized bike riders here have limited themselves to twenty or so speeding and popping wheelies on the roads.

it's the parents who purchase the motorized bikes for their children that need to step up and take responsibility for their children's hazardous riding.

god bless america.



Report

hotdog

3 hours ago

Amid all these deaths....the police refuse to consider these 911 public calls as an emergency and respond with urgency. My 911 calls in our area is generally chunked away as a non-emergency....with no or minimal late response.....until a mishap/death occurs. Recognize these 911 call as serious emergency and respond in a timely fashion....this should help quell these deaths.



Report

Kalani71

3 hours ago

Any parents now taking away e-bikes from their kids since this incident? "No. This would never happen to my kid".






Report

PC0924

3 hours ago

Officials, meanwhile, are at a loss as to why the number of traffic fatalities has skyrocketed on Oahu this year.




Maybe if the "Officials" got out of their office and drove around Oahu they would think differently.

 6  Report 

OAHU1979

3 hours ago

What is the law regarding having a drivers license to operate an e bike. If not, a Drivers License should be required and display on a lanyard for all assisted bicycle.

  Report 




scott967

54 minutes ago (Edited)

No license required for "e-bike" which means bike with motor not to exceed 750 watt output / capable of moving with adult at not greater than 20 mph on level ground, and with operable pedals.

Current Revised Ordinances of Honolulu Chapt 15 provides the laws for this county above what HRS requires.

The reporting suggests kid was on a "Surron". From what I see the smallest one puts out 3500 watts, so not legally an "e-bike".

 1  Report 

Mathews

4 hours ago

To curb youngsters from risking their lives to operate these motorized vehicles, an operators licensing and insurance should be imposed. Requiring parents to sign off on rules, regulations (helmets), and fines for violations.

Safety for the kids and for the public. It is traumatic for families whose children are injured, but it is also traumatic to for no fault of their own, the driver is drawn into the very unfortunate incident.

Kids need limits, and parents must take

responsibility to educate their children to be responsible when using the roadways.



Report



xbt

4 hours ago

Hawaii's drivers are ranked the worst in the

