



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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**DOH ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY BOOSTER SEAT CHECK-UP EVENTS**

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health is announcing free booster seat check-up events from January through March on Oahu, Maui, Hawaii and Kauai. The GEICO sponsored events are part of a statewide Booster Seat Information Campaign to educate the public about the new law and proper use of booster seats. The GEICO Gecko will be attending many of the check-up events. The public is reminded to bring their child or children, booster seat(s) and their car to have their seats checked and to learn how to install them properly.

With the passage of Hawaii's new booster seat law, as of January 1, 2007, all children ages four through seven are now required to ride in a child safety seat or 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, in which case the child is not required to use a booster seat, but must wear the seat belt.

"The proper use of child passenger restraints is the most important factor in preventing death and disability in a car crash," said Health Director Dr. Chiyome Fukino. "Children in booster seats are 60 percent safer than in seat belts alone."

Seat belts were designed for older children and adults, not for young children, whose size and physical development make seat belts less effective, and in some cases, unsafe.

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

For more information, please contact the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC) / Safe Kids Hawaii at 537-9200 or [www.kipchawaii.org](http://www.kipchawaii.org)

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For information contact:  
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## **GEICO Sponsored Booster Seat Checkups**

### **Oahu**

Date: January 20, 2007  
Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Location: Department of Health, 1250 Punchbowl Street, back parking lot  
Organizations: Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC) and Queen's Medical Center

Date: February 3, 2007  
Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Location: Waimanalo Health Center  
Organizations: KIPC and Waimanalo Health Center

Date: February 10, 2007  
Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Location: Department of Health at Kapolei parking lot  
Organizations: KIPC

### **Maui**

Date: January 20, 2007  
Time: 10:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Location: Maui Marketplace parking lot on Dairy Road in Kahului  
Organizations: Maui Police Department, Safe Community of Maui, Young Brothers, Maui Fire Department, and American Medical Response

Date: February 17, 2007  
Time: 10:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Location: Maui Marketplace parking lot  
Organizations: Safe Community of Maui, Maui Police Department, Maui Fire Department and American Medical Response

### **Hawaii**

Date: February 10, 2007  
Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon  
Location: Naalehua Federal Credit Union  
Organizations: Department of Health, Kau Rural Health Community Association

Date: March 17, 2007  
Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon  
Location: Pahoehoe Shopping Center  
Organizations: Department of Health and the Hawaii County Police Department

### **Kauai**

Date: January 27, 2007  
Time: 9:00 am – 11:30 am  
Location: Kmart parking lot  
Organizations: Kauai KIPC, Kauai Police Department, and American Medical Response