



NEWS RELEASE

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Hawai'i Renews Ignition Interlock Contract with [Smart Start](#) Following a Decline in Impaired Driving Fatalities

Honolulu, HI - As the holiday season draws near, Smart Start announced today it will continue as Hawai'i's ignition interlock provider. [Smart Start](#) was first selected in 2010 to enforce the statewide mandated interlock program.

"Smart Start is honored to continue serving as Hawai'i's ignition interlock provider," said JoAnn Hamajii-Oto, Director of Smart Start's Hawai'i Program. "With Smart Start's renewed contract, we maintain a focus on affordability by offering tiered vehicle pricing, while including new technologies to improve customer experience and keeping the roads of Hawai'i safe by preventing drunk driving."

Smart Start made the announcement at Pure Sounds in Waipahu - one of the [state's interlock installation locations](#). The Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT), Mothers Against Drunk Driving Hawai'i (MADD Hawai'i), and law enforcement officials were also on hand to bring attention to the unified effort behind keeping impaired drivers off of roadways.

"Drinking and driving is not an accident or a mere mistake; it's a reckless choice that can result in devastating and far-reaching consequences," said Chanda Park, who lost her daughter Azalia just days before Christmas in 2020 when a drunk driver struck her and fled the scene. Chanda created SafeRide Hawai'i, a local nonprofit with a mission to save lives by providing services that take intoxicated drivers and their cars home safely. "By never drinking and driving, by separating drinking and driving through the installation of ignition interlocks for DUI offenders, by being responsible and designating a sober driver, we can save lives and protect our community."

Since 2006, ignition interlocks prevented 196,245 trips in Hawai'i where a DUI offender would have been driving after drinking. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Hawai'i is one of the few states that saw a decline in alcohol-impaired driving fatalities from 36 in 2019 to 28 in 2021.

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MADD Hawai'i Advisory Board Member Arkie Koehl added, "MADD Hawai'i is proud to have spearheaded the introduction of interlock in Hawai'i, working with county police, prosecutors, the Departments of Transportation and Health, the Judiciary, members of the State Legislature and other community partners beginning in 2007 and resulting in interlock becoming law in 2011. But there's a catch: the device only works when it's installed, so we need to redouble our efforts to increase the number of offenders using it."

Data from Smart Start ignition interlock devices in Hawai'i is collected by MADD annually. Ignition interlock devices log data on failed breath tests that prevent a vehicle from being started. Currently, ignition interlock data is downloaded in Hawai'i on a monthly basis during device calibration and sent to HIDOT. In 2022, a total of 10,344 vehicle starts were prevented by Smart Start ignition interlock devices in Hawai'i.

"Ignition interlocks provide another tool to prevent drunk drivers from getting onto our roadways and putting our community and themselves at risk," said HDOT Director Ed Sniffen. "This continued partnership with Smart Start will help keep our roads safe and prevent the devastating impact of alcohol-impaired driving."

HDOT and Smart Start are providing training to the public, traffic safety groups, prosecutors, law enforcement, the judiciary, and the Administrative Driver's License Revocation Office (ADLRO) on how the ignition interlock works to prevent drunk driving.

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