



# VOICES

OF INJURY PREVENTION

**M**y name is Chad Taniguchi. I work with the Hawaii Bicycling League, it's a nonprofit organization whose mission is to get more people to ride bikes for health, recreation and transportation.



Note: Story is a transcript from recorded version

Well, about 20 years ago I was living on Kauai with my family. And one Sunday we went on an outing, and so it was a peaceful day, dirt road. And as we were going, there was a hunter coming toward us and he had dogs to help him. So immediately I downshifted to first gear, slowed down, and I just let the momentum of the engine carry the car forward. And as the hunter passed by us, though, all of a sudden one of his younger dogs just dove in front of our tire and we ran over it. The Dog didn't make any sound, but we heard the crunch of bones and we were just shocked.

Afterwards, I just thought, why did I do that, why didn't I just stop? Why didn't I stop earlier so that the dogs and the hunter could've just passed? It would have taken me ten seconds to stop, but instead I thought I was being safe by going slow. But I didn't account for the dog doing something unexpected.

In our daily life sometimes we're late for something, we're rushing. And that's the whole point, not to put your timetable or your convenience ahead of the safety of other people. Now, I work with the Hawaii Bicycling League. And when I'm driving a car, when I see someone walking or biking, I slow down and I get ready to stop because I know from that experience that you never know what somebody might do.

Once something happens, it can never be undone. So, hey, what's five seconds, what's ten seconds? Why not let that person go, why not stop, why not take that extra precaution? And don't get in the situation where you cause a serious injury or death because it's going be with you for a long time.

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