



SAFE SHOPPING

Personal safety on the job as well as off the job is a concern for all employers. This time of year is a great opportunity to remind people about staying safe while holiday shopping. The tips here apply year-round, as it's always a good idea to be aware of your surroundings.

There's a fine line between vigilance and hypervigilance – being aware of your surroundings versus being afraid everywhere you go. Being aware and alert to possible risk should help reduce the fear, so you make good choices that increase your personal safety.

In Parking Areas:

- Remember where you park and know your license number.
- Don't park in an isolated area.
- Park in a well-lit, high-traffic area.
- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle – store packages in the trunk.
- Make sure your car is locked when you leave it.
- Have your keys ready when returning to your car.

When Shopping:

- Walk confidently and be alert.
- Don't show large amounts of cash.
- Don't leave a credit card on a store counter.

- Don't carry a wallet in your back pocket or leave a purse on the floor.
- Shop with friends or family whenever possible.
- Report suspicious people or situations to security or call the police if you're in danger.

Street Safety:

- Be aware of your surroundings and trust your instincts.
- Walk in well-traveled, well-lighted areas.
- Walk with confidence/strength/ikaika at a good, steady pace.
- Don't overload yourself with packages and bags.

If you're followed:

- Make eye contact – this shows you're suspicious and won't be surprised.
- Change directions.
- Go to the nearest store, public place, police officer or police station – keep moving until you're safe.

Hawaiian Value: Mākaukau

Preparedness, readiness, capable, able, qualified.
(During hula practices or performances this is the word the kumu calls out to make sure all are ready. Dancers reply "Ae.")

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