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In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Finance

HB 2752 HD-2 RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

February 23, 2010

LATE

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports HB 2752 HD-2 with the suggested
2 changes proposed by Department of Transportation and Office of the Prosecuting Attorney in their
3 testimonies dated February 23, 2010.

4 Ignition interlocks are an effective way of increasing the safety of all road users by mechanically
5 preventing convicted drunk drivers from operating a vehicle with alcohol in their system.

6 **Fiscal Implications:** None

7 **Purpose and Justification:** HB 2752 HD-2 addresses the key recommendations that were made by the
8 Ignition Interlock Task Force, which was established after the legislature passed Act 171 in 2008.
9 Recommendations from the Ignition Interlock Task Force include creating interlock laws with
10 mandatory sentencing for all convicted impaired driving offenders, establishing penalties for tampering
11 and circumvention of interlock devices, and stricter laws and increased enforcement to deter those who
12 would try to avoid installation.

13 Alcohol related traffic fatalities remain tragically high in Hawaii; in 2008, 43 percent (46 drivers
14 out of 107) of all drivers involved in traffic fatalities tested positive for alcohol. Among drivers
15 involved in fatal crashes, those who tested positive for alcohol were at least 3 times (6% vs. 2%) more

1 likely than other drivers to have had a previous conviction for DUI (Fatal Analysis Reporting System,
2 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - NHTSA). There is an annual average of 5,500 DUI
3 arrests in Hawaii. Based on a study conducted in 2005 by the City and County of Honolulu, over one
4 fourth (28%) of DUI arrestees have been previously arrested for a DUI. NHTSA and the Centers for
5 Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conclude, when installed and in use, ignition interlocks are
6 effective for reducing alcohol related arrests and crashes.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.