



REVISED

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

**S.B. NO 659
RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **supports** S.B. 659 relating to highway safety. This bill will increase the fines associated with the violation of a person operating a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant (OVUII).

Alcohol-and drug- related driving continues to be a problem in Hawaii. During calendar year 2015, of the 93 total fatalities that occurred on Hawaii roads, 51 or 55% were alcohol-and/or drug- related fatalities. In the same year, police arrested 6,115 drivers for OVUII. Of those arrested 1,071 were repeat offenders. Many of these offenders did not have an ignition interlock installed and were detected driving while their license was suspended or revoked for previous OVUII convictions. Police have also issued numerous citations to drivers stopped for traffic violations and found to have had their license suspended or revoked for OVUII. These offenders continue to operate vehicles while their license are suspended revoked because there are no real consequences for their actions. Each time they operate a vehicle, they place other roadway users as well as themselves at risk from being injured or killed.

The DOT urges you to pass S.B. 367 as increased fines will deter these violators from operating a vehicle while their license is suspended or revoked for OVUII and provide a safer roadway for other drivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.