

SUPREME COURT OF HAWAI‘I

State v. Anderson

230 P.3d 381 (Haw. 2010) · No. No. 29377 · Decided February 22, 2010

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Hawai‘i held that the Intermediate Court of Appeals erred in affirming Anderson’s convictions because its decision was inconsistent with State v. Wheeler regarding the sufficiency of the operating-under-the-influence charge. The court vacated the appellate and district court judgments and remanded for further proceedings concerning the charge and the appropriate statute-of-limitations remedy. A dissent concluded that the defective oral charge deprived the district court of jurisdiction.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Hawai‘i
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Moon, C.J.; Nakayama, J.; Acoba, J.; Duffy, J.; Recktenwald, J.; Leonard, J.
JURISDICTION	Hawaii
DECIDED	February 22, 2010
DOCKET	No. 29377
DISPOSITION	vacated
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petition for review by writ of certiorari of the Intermediate Court of Appeals' judgment affirming the District Court of the First Circuit's criminal judgment.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Review by writ of certiorari; the court reviewed whether the ICA gravely erred in affirming the conviction and considered the appropriate remedy on remand.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	precedential
PARTIES	Robert Michael Anderson v. State of Hawai‘i

TOPICS

- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure
- writ of certiorari
- statutory interpretation
- remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the OVUII charge was legally sufficient without alleging that Anderson operated the vehicle on a public way, street, road, or highway.
2. Whether the appropriate remedy for the allegedly time-barred original OVUII charge was dismissal with prejudice or dismissal without prejudice.

HOLDINGS

1. The Intermediate Court of Appeals gravely erred in affirming the district court judgment because its decision was obviously inconsistent with *State v. Wheeler*.
2. The case must be remanded to the district court to permit the parties to more fully develop the record and for the district court to determine whether dismissal of the OVUII charge should be with or without prejudice.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“the ICA gravely erred in affirming the trial court's judgment because the ICA's decision is obviously inconsistent with this court's recently published opinion in State v. Wheeler” (230 P.3d 381)

“this case is remanded to the district court to give the parties an opportunity to more fully develop the record with regard to the statute of limitations issue, and decide whether the appropriate remedy in this case is either dismissal with or without prejudice.” (230 P.3d 381)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Anderson was charged with operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant under HRS § 291E-61(a)(1) and (b)(1), and with disregarding longitudinal traffic lane markings under HRS § 291C-38. The charging allegation did not allege that he operated the vehicle on a public way, street, road, or highway, an attendant circumstance identified by the court's precedent as necessary to the OVUII charge.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The District Court of the First Circuit convicted Anderson of operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant and disregarding longitudinal traffic lane markings. The Intermediate Court of Appeals affirmed by summary disposition order and entered judgment on appeal. The Supreme Court of Hawai‘i granted review, vacated both the ICA judgment and the district court judgment, and remanded.

DISPOSITION

vacated

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Remand to the District Court of the First Circuit for further proceedings, including allowing the parties to more fully develop the record concerning the statute-of-limitations issue and determining whether the appropriate remedy is dismissal with prejudice or dismissal without prejudice.

CASES CITED

- State v. Wheeler, 121 Hawai'i 383, 219 P.3d 1170 (2009)
- State v. Wheeler, No. 29149 (Haw. Mar. 6, 2009)
- State v. Jendrusch, 58 Haw. 279, 567 P.2d 1242 (1977)
- State v. Sprattling, 99 Hawai'i 312, 327, 55 P.3d 276, 291 (2002)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

STATE OF HAWAII, Respondent-Plaintiff-Appellee, v. ROBERT MICHAEL ANDERSON, Petitioner-Defendant-Appellant. No. 29377. Supreme Court of Hawaii. February 22, 2010. On the briefs: Craig W. Jerome, Deputy Public Defender, for Petitioner-Defendant-Appellant Robert Michael Anderson. Stephen K. Tsushima, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, for Respondent-Plaintiff-Appellee State of Hawai'i.

SUMMARY DISPOSITION ORDER MOON, C.J., NAKAYAMA, ACOBA, DUFFY and RECKTENWALD, JJ. Petitioner-Defendant-Appellant, Robert Michael Anderson ("Anderson") petitions this court to review the Intermediate Court of Appeals' ("ICA's") September 16, 2009 judgment on appeal.

The ICA's judgment was entered pursuant to the court's September 24, 2009 summary disposition order affirming the District Court of the First Circuit's ("trial court's")[1] judgment convicting Anderson of operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant ("OVUII"), in violation of Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §§ 291E-61(a)(1) and 291E-61(b)(1) (Supp.

2008),[2] and disregarding longitudinal traffic lane markings, in violation of HRS § 291C-38 (2007).[3] In his application for writ of certiorari before this court, Anderson asserts that (1) the ICA gravely erred "in holding that the [OVUII] charge against [Anderson] was sufficient because the [Respondent-Plaintiff-Appellee, State of Hawai'i (`prosecution')] was not required to allege that [Anderson] was traveling on a public way, street, road, or highway in order to convict him of the offense of OVUII," and, (2) "[u]pon [r]emand to the [t]rial [c]ourt, the [p]roper [r]emedy is [d]ismissal [w]ith [p]rejudice [b]ecause the [o]riginal OVUII [c]harge is [t]ime-[b]arred by the [s]tatute of [l]imitations."

Upon carefully reviewing the record and the briefs submitted by the parties and having given due consideration to the arguments advanced and the issues raised, we hold that: (1) the ICA gravely erred in affirming the trial court's judgment because the ICA's decision is obviously inconsistent

with this court's recently published opinion in *State v. Wheeler*, 121 Hawai'i 383, 219 P.3d 1170 (2009), and (2) this case is remanded to the district court to give the parties an opportunity to more fully develop the record with regard to the statute of limitations issue, and decide whether the appropriate remedy in this case is either dismissal with or without prejudice.

Therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the ICA's September 16, 2009 judgment on appeal and the district court's August 28, 2008 judgment is vacated, and the case is remanded to the district court for further proceedings consistent with this order. DISSENT BY LEONARD, J. I respectfully dissent.

For the reasons stated in this court's March 6, 2009 Summary Disposition Order in *State v. Wheeler* (No. 29149), certiorari pending, it appears that the oral charge in this case was insufficient. The charge failed to include a plain, concise and definite statement of each of the essential facts constituting the offense of Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence of an Intoxicant, in violation of Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 291E-61(a) because it failed to allege that Anderson operated a vehicle on a public road, street or highway, an attendant circumstance of the offense.

See Hawai'i Rules of Penal Procedure Rules 5(b) and 7(a); HRS § 702-205; *State v. Jendrusch*, 58 Haw. 279, 567 P.2d 1242 (1977) (oral charge must sufficiently allege all of the essential elements of the offense charged; defective charge constitutes denial of due process). Inasmuch as the charge was defective, the District Court of the First Circuit, Honolulu Division, was without jurisdiction in this matter.

See *State v. Sprattling*, 99 Hawai'i 312, 327, 55 P.3d 276, 291 (2002). NOTES [1] The Honorable William Cardwell presided. [2] HRS § 291E-61(a)(1) and 291E-61(b)(1) provide: (a) A person commits the offense of operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant if the person operates or assumes actual physical control of the vehicle: (1) While under the influence of alcohol in an amount sufficient to impair the person's normal mental faculties or ability to care for their person and guard against casualty; (b) A person committing the offense of operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant shall be sentenced as follows without possibility of parole or suspension of sentence: (1) Except as provided in [paragraph] (2), for the first offense, or any offense not preceded within a five-year period by a conviction for an offense under this section or section 291E-4(a): (A) A fourteen-hour minimum substance abuse rehabilitation program, including education and counseling, or other comparable program deemed appropriate by the court; (B) Ninety-day prompt suspension of license and privilege to operate a vehicle during the suspension period, or the court may impose, in lieu of the ninety-day prompt suspension of license, a minimum thirty-day prompt suspension of license with absolute prohibition from operating a vehicle and, for the remainder of the ninety-day period, a restriction on the license that allows the person to drive for limited work-related purposes and to participate in substance abuse

treatment programs; (C) Any one or more of the following: (i) Seventy-two hours of community service work; (ii) Not less than forty-eight hours and not more than five days of imprisonment; or (iii) A fine of not less than \$150 but not more than \$1,000; (D) A surcharge of \$25 to be deposited into the neurotrauma special fund; and (E) May be charged a surcharge of up to \$25 to be deposited into the trauma system special fund if the court so orders[.]

[3] Anderson has not appealed his conviction for violating HRS § 291C-38.