

INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

State of Hawai‘i v. Ryan M. Shuptrine

Shuptrine · No. CAAP-XX-XXXXXXX · Decided April 29, 2026

SUMMARY

The Hawai‘i Intermediate Court of Appeals vacated Ryan M. Shuptrine’s conviction for excessive speeding and remanded for further proceedings. The court held that the district court violated Shuptrine’s constitutional right not to testify by failing to conduct the required Tachibana colloquy before he testified, and the State could not establish that the error was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Intermediate Court of Appeals of the State of Hawai‘i
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Keith K. Hiraoka, Presiding Judge; Clyde J. Wadsworth, Associate Judge; Sonja M.P. McCullen, Associate Judge
JURISDICTION	Intermediate Court of Appeals of the State of Hawai‘i
DECIDED	April 29, 2026
DOCKET	CAAP-XX-XXXXXXX
DISPOSITION	vacated
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant appealed the District Court of the First Circuit's amended judgment convicting him of excessive speeding. The Intermediate Court of Appeals vacated the judgment and remanded.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A constitutional error requires vacatur unless the State proves the error harmless beyond a reasonable doubt; the relevant inquiry is whether there is a reasonable possibility that the error contributed to the conviction.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished and nonprecedential
PARTIES	Ryan M. Shuptrine v. State of Hawai‘i

TOPICS

criminal procedure

fifth amendment

harmless error

appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court was required to conduct the Tachibana ultimate colloquy concerning the defendant's right not to testify even though the defendant testified.
2. Whether the failure to conduct that colloquy violated Shuptrine's constitutional right not to testify.
3. Whether the constitutional error was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt.

HOLDINGS

1. In every criminal trial, the trial court must conduct the ultimate colloquy advising the defendant of the rights to testify and not testify, including when the defendant ultimately testifies.
2. The district court's failure to conduct the ultimate colloquy violated Shuptrine's constitutional right not to testify.
3. The State failed to prove that the failure to conduct the ultimate colloquy was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“However, in 2019, the Hawai‘i Supreme Court required this colloquy in all criminal trials, whether or not the defendant testifies.” (at 4)

“In other words, there was a reasonable possibility that the failure to engage in a colloquy with Shuptrine regarding his right not to testify may have contributed to his conviction.” (at 5)

“Based on the foregoing, we vacate the district court's March 27, 2024 amended Judgment of Conviction and remand this case for further proceedings consistent with this summary disposition order.” (at 6)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

A police officer used a speed laser device to measure Shuptrine traveling at 96 miles per hour on the H-1 freeway, where the speed limit was 55 miles per hour. After the officer testified, Shuptrine testified about trying to reach a hospital to sing to someone being taken off life support. The district court confirmed only that testifying was Shuptrine's decision, did not conduct the required ultimate colloquy concerning his right not to testify, found the officer credible, and convicted Shuptrine.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The District Court of the First Circuit, ‘Ewa Division, convicted Shuptrine of excessive speeding after a bench trial and entered an amended judgment on March 27, 2024. Shuptrine appealed, arguing, among other things, that the court failed to conduct the required colloquy concerning his right not to testify before he testified. The State conceded error and acknowledged that it could not establish harmlessness beyond a reasonable doubt.

DISPOSITION

vacated

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Remanded for further proceedings consistent with the summary disposition order.

CASES CITED

- Tachibana v. State, 79 Hawai‘i 226, 236, 240, 900 P.2d 1293, 1303, 1307 (1995)
- State v. Monteil, 134 Hawai‘i 361, 373, 341 P.3d 567, 579 (2014)
- State v. Celestine, 142 Hawai‘i 165, 170, 415 P.3d 907, 912 (2018)
- State v. Torres, 144 Hawai‘i 282, 290-91, 294-95, 439 P.3d 234, 242-43, 246-47 (2019)
- State v. Eduwensuyi, 141 Hawai‘i 328, 336, 409 P.3d 732, 740 (2018)
- State v. Han, 130 Hawai‘i 83, 93, 306 P.3d 128, 138 (2013)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

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AM Dkt. 66 SO NO. CAAP-XX-XXXXXXX IN THE INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS
OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I STATE OF HAWAI‘I, Plaintiff-Appellee, v. RYAN M.
SHUPTRINE, Defendant-Appellant. APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST
CIRCUIT ‘EWA DIVISION (CASE NO. 1DTC-23-030959) SUMMARY DISPOSITION ORDER
(By: Hiraoka, Presiding Judge, Wadsworth and McCullen, JJ.)

Defendant-Appellant Ryan M. Shuptrine appeals from the District Court of the First Circuit's 1
March 27, 2024 amended Judgment of Conviction, convicting him of Excessive Speeding in
violation of Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) § 291C-105(a)(1) and/or (a)(2) (2020). 2 1 The
Honorable Sherri-Ann L. Iha presided over the trial and entered the judgment. 2 HRS § 291C-
105(a) provides, "No person shall drive a motor vehicle at a speed exceeding: (1) The applicable
state or county speed limit by thirty miles per hour or more; or (2) Eighty miles per hour or more
irrespective of the applicable state or county speed limit."

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PACIFIC REPORTER On appeal, Shuptrine raises three points of error, asserting the district court
violated his right to counsel, failed to conduct a colloquy on his right not to testify, and improperly
excluded evidence. Shuptrine's second point of error is dispositive. Upon careful review of the
record and the briefs submitted by the parties, and having given due consideration to the issues
raised and the arguments advanced, we resolve this appeal as discussed below, and vacate and
remand.

Plaintiff-Appellee State of Hawai'i charged Shuptrine with Excessive Speeding. Prior to the start of trial, the district court informed Shuptrine of his right to testify and right not to testify. Honolulu Police Department Officer Larry Yoshimura (Officer Yoshimura) then testified that he observed Shuptrine driving on the H-1 freeway near the Ka'ahele Street underpass.

Using a speed laser device, he measured Shuptrine's speed at 96 miles per hour. The speed limit in the area was 55 miles per hour. Following Officer Yoshimura's testimony, the defense called Shuptrine to testify. The district court then confirmed that it was Shuptrine's decision to testify, but did not otherwise conduct a colloquy of his right to not testify: 2 NOT FOR PUBLICATION IN WEST'S HAWAI'I REPORTS AND PACIFIC REPORTER THE COURT: Okay.

So, sir, that is your decision, and not your attorney's decision to testify, right? MR. SHUPTRINE: Yeah. THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead. MALE VOICE: Your Honor, does the defendant need to be Tachibana'd again a second time? THE COURT: I just asked him if it was his decision, and not his attorney's decision. MALE VOICE: Oh, okay. THE COURT: It's only if he's not going to testify, I think, when you do go through the colloquy.

MALE VOICE: Okay. Thank you. Shuptrine testified. The district court found Officer Yoshimura credible and Shuptrine guilty. The district court sentenced Shuptrine to, among other things, thirty-six hours community service, a \$450.00 fine, and a thirty-day license suspension. Shuptrine appealed.

On appeal, Shuptrine contends the "district court erred by allowing [him] to testify without first establishing a valid waiver of his right to remain silent and not testify at trial." (Emphasis omitted.) Shuptrine also argues that this error was not harmless beyond a reasonable doubt as the district court relied on his testimony in convicting him.

To its credit, the State acknowledges the district court's error and its inability to show this error was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt. 3 NOT FOR PUBLICATION IN WEST'S HAWAI'I REPORTS AND PACIFIC REPORTER Before the close of a criminal defendant's case or prior to the defendant testifying, trial courts must conduct an "ultimate colloquy" advising "defendants of their right to testify and must obtain an on-the-record waiver of that right in every case in which the defendant does not testify."

Tachibana v. State, 79 Hawai'i 226, 236, 900 P.2d 1293, 1303 (1995). The colloquy is limited to the following advisements: (1) The defendant "has a right to testify"; (2) If the defendant "wants to testify that no one can prevent him or her from doing so"; (3) If the defendant "testifies the prosecution will be allowed to cross-examine him or her"; (4) The defendant "has a right not to testify"; (5) If the defendant "does not testify then the jury can be instructed about that right"; and (6) The exercise of the right not to testify "may not be used by the fact finder to decide the case."

Id. at 236 n.7, 900 P.2d at 1303 n.7 (citation and brackets omitted); *State v. Monteil*, 134 Hawai'i 361, 373, 341 P.3d 567, 579 (2014). The colloquy must be a true colloquy to ascertain the defendant's understanding of these rights. *State v. Celestine*, 142 Hawai'i 165, 170, 415 P.3d 907, 912 (2018).

Here, Shuptrine testified, but the district court did not conduct the ultimate colloquy under the mistaken belief that 4 NOT FOR PUBLICATION IN WEST'S HAWAI'I REPORTS AND PACIFIC REPORTER the colloquy need only be done when a defendant does not testify.

However, in 2019, the Hawai'i Supreme Court required this colloquy in all criminal trials, whether or not the defendant testifies. *State v. Torres*, 144 Hawai'i 282, 294-95, 439 P.3d 234, 246-47 (2019). Thus, the district court's failure to conduct an ultimate colloquy violated Shuptrine's constitutional right not to testify. See id. "When the violation of a constitutional right has been established, 'the conviction must be vacated unless the State can prove that the violation was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt.'" Id. at 290-91, 439 P.3d at 242-43 (quoting *Tachibana*, 79 Hawai'i at 240, 900 P.2d at 1307).

"The relevant question under the harmless beyond a reasonable doubt standard is whether there is a reasonable possibility that the error might have contributed to the conviction." *State v. Eduwensuyi*, 141 Hawai'i 328, 336, 409 P.3d 732, 740 (2018) (cleaned up) (quoting *State v. Han*, 130 Hawai'i 83, 93, 306 P.3d 128, 138 (2013)). Shuptrine testified that he was trying to get to the hospital to sing to someone who was about to be taken off life support.

In rendering its decision, the district court explained, "Although I do feel for your situation, you know, driving that speed, especially if you're not in the right state of mind, is more dangerous. And you're putting other people at risk out there." 5 NOT FOR PUBLICATION IN WEST'S HAWAI'I REPORTS AND PACIFIC REPORTER Based on this explanation, it appears the district court relied, at least in part, on Shuptrine's testimony in reaching its decision.

And it is not clear whether Shuptrine's testimony influenced the district court's credibility finding. In other words, there was a reasonable possibility that the failure to engage in a colloquy with Shuptrine regarding his right not to testify may have contributed to his conviction. See id. Thus, under the circumstances of this case, we cannot say that the violation of Shuptrine's right not to testify was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt.

See id.; *Torres*, 144 Hawai'i 290-91, 439 P.3d at 242-43. Based on the foregoing, we vacate the district court's March 27, 2024 amended Judgment of Conviction and remand this case for further proceedings consistent with this summary disposition order. DATED: Honolulu, Hawai'i, April 29, 2026.

On the briefs: /s/ Keith K. Hiraoka Presiding Judge Benjamin E. Lowenthal, for Defendant-Appellant. /s/ Clyde J. Wadsworth Associate Judge Robert T. Nakatsuji, Deputy Prosecuting

Attorney, /s/ Sonja M.P. McCullen City and County of Honolulu, Associate Judge for Plaintiff-Appellee. 6

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