

INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

State of Hawai‘i v. Lance Avery Pascubillo

State v. Pascubillo · No. CAAP-XX-XXXXXXX · Decided June 10, 2026

SUMMARY

The Hawai‘i Intermediate Court of Appeals held that the District Court exceeded its authority under Hawai‘i Revised Statutes § 291E-61 by requiring the defendant to appear for compliance hearings in connection with an operating-under-the-influence conviction. The court reversed the September 9, 2024 Compliance Hearings Order.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Intermediate Court of Appeals of the State of Hawai‘i
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Katherine G. Leonard; Keith K. Hiraoka; Sonja M.P. McCullen
JURISDICTION	Intermediate Court of Appeals of the State of Hawai‘i
DECIDED	June 10, 2026
DOCKET	CAAP-XX-XXXXXXX
DISPOSITION	reversed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant appealed the District Court's order denying his motion to strike proof-of-compliance hearings imposed in connection with an OVUII sentence.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the alleged error based on the record and the parties' briefs; no more specific standard of review was stated.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Lance Avery Pascubillo v. State of Hawai‘i

TOPICS

criminal procedure

statutory interpretation

probation

appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal procedure

OVUII sentencing

appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the District Court had statutory authority under HRS § 291E-61 to require compliance hearings in an OVUII case while keeping part of the sentence under advisement.
2. Whether the District Court erred by using compliance hearings as a form of probation or court supervision to monitor substance-abuse treatment and rehabilitation.

HOLDINGS

1. The District Court exceeded its authority under HRS § 291E-61 because no statutory authority supported requiring Pascubillo to appear for compliance hearings while keeping part of his OVUII sentence under advisement.
2. The District Court erred in entering the September 9, 2024 Compliance Hearings Order.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“There is no statutory authority supporting the District Court’s use of compliance hearings, while keeping part of Pascubillo’s OVUII sentence “under advisement” in this manner, regardless of the specific purpose of the compliance hearings.” (3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Pascubillo pleaded no contest to OVUII and was sentenced to complete a substance-abuse assessment and a 14-hour substance-abuse rehabilitation program. The District Court took a \$250 Drug Demand Reduction Fee under advisement for one year on the condition that he have no further similar violations and set compliance hearings. The compliance-hearings order described the hearings as reviewing compliance with the treatment components of the OVUII judgment. The fee was later waived in an amended judgment.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pascubillo pleaded no contest to, among other offenses, operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant under HRS § 291E-61(a)(1). The District Court imposed substance-abuse assessment and rehabilitation requirements, took a \$250 Drug Demand Reduction Fee under advisement for one year, and ordered compliance hearings. After Pascubillo moved to strike the hearings, the District Court denied the motion. The District Court later entered an amended judgment waiving the fee, and Pascubillo appealed the compliance-hearings order.

DISPOSITION

reversed

CASES CITED

- State v. Rivero-Garcia, No. CAAP-XX-XXXXXXX, 2026 WL 1582067 (Haw. App. June 3, 2026)

OPINION

State v. Pascubillo

PER CURIAM.

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Electronically Filed Intermediate Court of Appeals

CAAP-XX-XXXXXXX

10-JUN-2026

07:53 AM Dkt. 78 SO

NO. CAAP-XX-XXXXXXX

IN THE INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS

OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

STATE OF HAWAII, Plaintiff-Appellee, v. LANCE AVERY PASCUBILLO, Defendant-Appellant

APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT

NORTH & SOUTH KONA DIVISION

(CASE NO. 3DCW-XX-XXXXXXX)

SUMMARY DISPOSITION ORDER

(By: Leonard, Presiding Judge, Hiraoka and McCullen, JJ.) Defendant-Appellant Lance Pascubillo, Jr. (Pascubillo), appeals from the September 9, 2024 Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Denying Defendant's Motion to Strike Proof of Compliance Hearings (Compliance Hearings Order) entered by the North and South Kona Division of the District Court of the Third Circuit (District Court).¹ Pascubillo raises a single point of error on appeal, contending that the District Court erred in entering the Compliance Hearings Order. Upon careful review of the record and the briefs submitted by the parties, and having given due consideration to

¹ The Honorable Ann S. Datta presided.

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the arguments advanced and the issues raised, we resolve Pascubillo's point of error as follows: Pascubillo pleaded no contest to, inter alia, Operating a Vehicle under the Influence of an Intoxicant in violation of Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 291E-61(a)(1) (2020) (OVUII). He was sentenced to, inter alia, complete substance abuse assessment and 14 hours substance abuse rehabilitation program. A \$250 Drug Demand Reduction Fee was taken under advisement for one year on the condition that Pascubillo have no further similar violations.² After the District Court imposed the sentence, the District Court set a compliance hearing. On the same day, August 12, 2024, the District Court entered a Judgment and Notice of Entry of Judgment (Judgment), which stated, inter alia, that the \$250 Drug Demand Reduction Fee was taken under advisement – without further explanation. After Pascubillo moved to strike the proof-of-compliance hearings, on September 9, 2024, the District Court entered the Compliance Hearings Order. On December 19, 2024, after a hearing, the District Court entered an Amended Judgment and Notice of Entry of Judgment (Amended Judgment).³ The Amended Judgment states that the Drug Demand Reduction Fee is waived. Pascubillo argues that the District Court erred when it entered the Compliance Hearings Order because, inter alia, it created a form of court supervision that is not found in the

HRS and the District Court is not authorized to use compliance 2 The Honorable David R. Harada-Stone presided. 3 There is no hearing transcript in the record on appeal, but the Amended Judgment reflects that a hearing was held. 2

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hearings in this OVUII case as a form of probation to monitor Pascubillo's substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation. The argument that the District Court is not authorized to use compliance hearings in OVUII cases as a form of probation has merit. Although it does not change our disposition here, we note that the record before us is somewhat unclear as to the reason that compliance hearings were being set. The oral ruling reflected in the transcript of the August 12, 2024 hearing is silent as to the reason for compliance hearings. The Judgment states that the \$250 Drug Demand Reduction Fee was taken under advisement for one year on condition that Pascubillo have no further similar violations – suggesting that the compliance hearings were related to that condition. However, the Compliance Hearings Order states that Pascubillo was ordered to return to court "for the purpose of reviewing compliance with the treatment components of the Judgment related to the OVUII." Nevertheless, based on the rationale set forth in this court's recent Opinion in *State v. Rivero-Garcia*, No. CAAP-XX-XXXXXXX, 2026 WL 1582067 (Haw. App. June 3, 2026), we conclude that the District Court exceeded its authority under HRS § 291E-61 by requiring Pascubillo to appear for compliance hearings. There is no statutory authority supporting the District Court's use of compliance hearings, while keeping part of Pascubillo's OVUII sentence "under advisement" in this manner, regardless of the specific purpose of the compliance hearings. Therefore, we conclude that the District Court erred in entering the Compliance Hearings Order. 3

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Accordingly, the District Court's September 9, 2024 Compliance Hearings Order is reversed. DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii, June 10, 2026. On the briefs: /s/ Katherine G. Leonard Presiding Judge Benjamin Lowenthal, Deputy Public Defender, /s/ Keith K. Hiraoka (on opening brief only), Associate Judge and /s/ Sonja M.P. McCullen Associate Judge Sara K. Haley, Deputy Public Defender, (on reply brief only) for Defendant-Appellant. Charles E. Murray, III, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawaii, for Plaintiff-Appellee. 4

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² The Honorable David R. Harada-Stone presided.

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