



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Senator J. Kalani English Statement Ignition Interlock Bill Signing Ceremony 14 June 2010

First, I want to add my thanks to the Hawaii Ignition Interlock Implementation Task Force for their time and guidance in helping us bring this new tool to the public.

This bill is a good example of weighing public burdens and benefits. I think we all agree that we need to further reduce the number of drivers operating their cars under the influence of alcohol. We've gotten that number down, but we still need to do more. And while it may be appealing to say that we should impose zero tolerance and simply take away the licenses of those convicted of DUI, the reality is that people whose licenses have been revoked still need to get to work, to transport their families, and to fulfill other obligations, and there is still no efficient alternative to driving. Even the task force itself has moved away from recommending lifetime license revocations.

Just as there is no single cause of this problem, there is no single solution. We need another tool to address it, and this ignition interlock legislation provides just such a tool.

I am hopeful that the balance achieved with this ignition interlock law will offer both an effective approach to ending repeat drunk driving offenses and a way to ensure the public's right to travel safe streets.

