The Cyberspace Environment...

We all know that today's Internet is a valuable tool that enriches our lives and can provide valuable learning and communication experiences for children. But, it is important to remember that much like any real-world place, Cyberspace contains dangers that must be recognized and respected. We have collected the information contained in the links at the left of this page to help you to recognize the danger spots and activities that exist in Cyberspace. By making yourself familiar with that information, you will be able to take the necessary steps to minimize those dangers.

How You Can Help...

Hawaii's ICAC Task Force also asks that you use the crime reporting and contact links at the left of this page to let us know about any Internet activity that you consider dangerous to children. Because of our relationship with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the other ICAC Task Forces, we will be able to take the information you provide and address the problem no matter where it originates in the United States.

Visit us Online at:

www.hicac.com

Hawaii Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

235 South Beretania Street
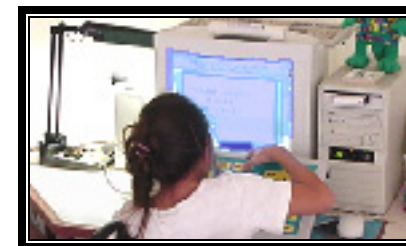**Suite 206**
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Phone: 808-587-4116
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Department of the Attorney General

Criminal Justice Division

Hawaii Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

Who We Are...

Hawaii's Attorney General has created a statewide Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force with the help of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The Hawaii ICAC Task Force is part of a cooperative nationwide network of thirty ICAC Task Forces that are dedicated to protecting children in the online environment. In order to accomplish this goal, our ICAC Task Force makes Internet education and safety programs and information available for Hawaii's children, teachers, and parents. If prevention efforts fail, Hawaii's ICAC Task Force is ready to vigorously investigate and prosecute persons who victimize children through the use of computers and the Internet.

Hawaii ICAC

Helping to Keep Hawaii's Kids Safe Online!

Kids, Protect Yourselves Online

•Do not give personal information such as your address, telephone number, parent's work address or telephone number, or the name and location of your school.

•Tell your parents if something that you come across online makes you feel uncomfortable.

•Never agree to get together with someone you "meet" online without your parents permission. If your parents agree to the meeting, be sure the meeting is in a public place and that you bring them along.

•Never respond to messages or bulletin board items that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening, or make you feel uncomfortable. Give a copy of such messages to your parents and have them forward it to your Internet service provider.

•Never send pictures of yourself or any other personal material to a friend you meet online without telling your parents first.

•Follow the rules that your parents set for your online activities.

•There are places on the Internet that are for adults only. If you find yourself in one of those areas LEAVE and go to one of the cool places on the Internet for kids.

Kids, visit NetSmartz Kids for loads of online games and activities. You'll be glad you did.

Just go to —- www.netsmartz.org/KIDS/

Safety Tools for Teens

•Don't give out personal information about your family situation, school, telephone #, or address.

•If you become aware of the transmission, use, or viewing of child pornography while online, report this to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678.

•When "chatting" in chat rooms, remember that not everyone is who they say they are, for example a person who says "she" is a 14-year-old girl from New York may really be a 42-year-old man from California.

•If someone harasses you online, says anything inappropriate, or does anything that makes you feel uncomfortable, contact your ISP.

•Know that there are rules many ISP's have about online behavior. If you violate these rules, your ISP may give you a "time out" and disable your account either temporarily or permanently.

•Consider volunteering at your local library, school, or The Boys and Girls Club to help younger children online. Many schools and nonprofit organizations are in need of people to help set up their computers and Internet capabilities.

•If you are having problems at home, with your friends, or at school, a friend you have met online may not be the best person to talk with.

•If you are thinking about running away, call the National Runaway Switchboard at 1-800-621-4000, instead of talking to friends online. Although some of your online friends may seem to really listen to you, the Switchboard will be able to give you answers to some of your questions about what to do when you are depressed, abused, or thinking about running away.

Helpful Information for Adults

•Become more computer literate, get to know the services your child uses. Find out what types of information it offers and whether there are built-in ways to block out objectionable material.

•Consider using a pseudonym or unlisting your child's name if your service allows it. Steer away from online profiles. Pedophiles often use profiles as a means to find victims.

•Never allow a child to arrange a face-to-face meeting with another computer user without permission. If a meeting is arranged, make the first meeting in a public place and accompany your child to the meeting.

•Do not allow your child to respond to messages or bulletin board items that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, or threatening. Forward a copy of such messages to your Internet service provider.

•Call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678 if you are aware of the transmission, use, or viewing of child pornography online.

•Never give out any personal information such as your address, telephone number, work number, or your child's school name.

•Keep the computer in your family room where you can watch and monitor your child's activities.

•Share an E-mail account with your child so that you can oversee his or her mail.

•Spend as much time as possible online together to show your children proper behavior and rules. Adapted from Child Safety on the Information Highway by Lawrence J. Magid. Copyright (c) 1994 NCMEC. All rights reserved.