



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General
Phone: (808) 586-1282
Fax: (808) 586-1239

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Welfare Fraud Crackdown Continues

Attorney General Earl I. Anzai announced today that:

On August 1, 2001, First Circuit Court Judge Russell Blair sentenced Wahiawa resident Matilda Beltran, 40, the mother of four children, to five years in prison for one count of theft in the second degree and ordered her to pay restitution to the State of Hawaii in the amount of \$34,195.00. Ms. Beltran concealed from welfare authorities the presence in her household of the father of her children and his income.

On August 1, 2001, First Circuit Court Judge Gail C. Nakatani sentenced Honolulu resident Victoria F. Milo, 46, the mother of eleven children, to five years probation for theft in the first degree. Ms. Milo was also sent to jail for sixty days, ordered to perform 200 hours of community service, and required to pay restitution to the State of Hawaii in the amount of \$164,732.00. Over a period of seven years, Ms. Milo concealed from welfare and public housing authorities the presence in her household of the father of her children and his income.

On July 30, 2001, Waipahu resident Silivelia Uila, 34, pled no contest to one count of theft in the first degree before First Circuit Court Judge Marie N. Milks. Ms. Uila fraudulently obtained more than \$53,000 in public assistance benefits by concealing from welfare authorities the presence in her household of the father of her minor children and his income. Ms. Uila also fraudulently concealed from welfare authorities the fact that one of her minor children was absent from her home for a substantial period of time. Sentencing is set for October 9, 2001.

On July 26, 2001, former Honolulu resident Marlena Palenapa, 27, who currently resides in Las Vegas, pled guilty to one count of theft in the second degree before First Circuit Court Judge Richard K. Perkins. Ms. Palenapa obtained more than \$11,000.00 in public assistance benefits by concealing from welfare authorities the presence in her household of the father of her children and his income. Sentencing is set for October 9, 2001.

On July 25, 2001, Waikiki residents Russell C. Hernandez, 38, and Gerald K. Forchuk, 57, pled no contest to theft in the second degree before Circuit Court Judge Gail C. Nakatani. Hernandez and Forchuk fraudulently obtained more than \$39,000 in public assistance benefits by concealing their income from welfare authorities.

Sentencing is set for October 10, 2001.

On July 12, 2001, Wahiawa resident Earl Hilliard, 38, pled guilty to theft in the second degree before First Circuit Court Judge Michael A. Town. Sentencing is set for September 26, 2001.

On July 5, 2001, Honolulu resident Kerri Hilliard, 31, pled guilty to theft in the second degree before Judge Town. Her sentencing is set for September 17, 2001.

Earl and Kerri Hilliard fraudulently obtained more than \$19,000.00 in welfare benefits by concealing from welfare authorities that Earl Hilliard was present in the household and by failing to report that two minor children were not in the household for an extended period of time.

On July 11, 2001, Waianae resident Althia Chandler pled no contest to one count of theft in the first degree before First Circuit Court Judge Karl K. Sakamoto. Mrs. Chandler fraudulently obtained more than \$92,000 in public assistance benefits by concealing from welfare authorities the presence in her household of her husband and his income. Sentencing is set for September 18, 2001.

On July 5, 2001, former Honolulu resident Scott L. Thompson, 29, who is now living in Arizona, pled no contest to one count of theft in the second degree before First Circuit Court Judge Richard K. Perkins. Mr. Thompson fraudulently obtained \$7,120.00 in medical benefits by falsely representing to welfare authorities that his minor child was living with him when in fact the child was living with her mother. Judge Perkins granted Mr. Thompson's request to defer his plea and placed Mr. Thompson on probation for five years. If Mr. Thompson makes complete restitution to the State of Hawaii and complies with the other terms and conditions of the order of deferral, at the end of five years, the charge will be dismissed and Mr. Thompson will not have a criminal record.

On June 28, 2001, First Circuit Court Judge Michael A. Town, sentenced Honolulu resident Laurie Ann K. Apolo, 23, for two counts of theft in the second degree. Between 1996 and 1999, Ms Apolo committed welfare fraud by concealing from welfare authorities the presence in her household of the father of her minor children and his income. Ms. Apolo also concealed from welfare authorities that for a substantial period of time her minor children were not living with her. Ms. Apolo was placed on probation for a period of five years, ordered to pay restitution to the State of Hawaii in the amount of \$28,806.00 and ordered to perform 100 hours of community service.

On June 25, 2001, Makaha resident Ronald Labasan, 34, pled no contest to two counts of theft in the second degree before First Circuit Court Judge Karen Ahn. Sentencing is set for September 13, 2001. Mr. Labasan fraudulently obtained more than \$19,000.00 in welfare benefits by concealing from welfare authorities his receipt of workers compensation and personal injury settlements.

On June 18, 2001, First Circuit Court Judge Victoria Marks denied Tawana A. Miles' request to defer her no contest plea to one count of theft in the first degree and sentenced her for that offense. Ms. Miles was placed on probation for five years, ordered to pay restitution to the State of Hawaii in the amount of \$51,123.00, and required to perform 200 hours of community service. Ms. Miles fraudulently obtained welfare benefits by using two identities and concealing the presence of her husband in her home.

PROBATION REVOCATION:

On July 11, 2001, First Circuit Court Judge Richard K. Perkins, revoked the five year probation sentence previously granted to Ewa Beach resident Raynee L. Burns, 38, and resentenced her for one count of theft in the second degree. Ms. Burns' probation was revoked for failing to report to her probation officer, failing to maintain full time employment, and failing to pay restitution. Judge Perkins resentenced Ms. Burns to a new five year term of probation, ordered her to pay \$9,247.00 in restitution to the State of Hawaii and also ordered

that she spend one year in jail as a condition of her new probation sentence.
