



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT

Attorney General Earl I. Anzai and Jo Ann Uchida, of the Regulated Industries and Complaints Office of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, announced today that Thomas Aholelei, also known as Viliami Aholelei and William Aholelei, pled guilty to four class C felony counts of Theft in the Second Degree and three misdemeanor counts of Unlicensed Contracting Activity, and on June 18, 2002, was sentenced by Judge Sandra Simms to five years imprisonment for each of the theft counts and one year imprisonment for each of the unlicensed contracting counts. Three of the felony theft counts were related to unlicensed contracting cases. Aholelei took money from victims who thought he was going to perform contracting services for them. One of the felony counts involved public assistance or welfare fraud.

Attorney General Anzai stated:

"Mr. Aholelei was a repeat offender who would not stop his unlicensed contracting activity, even after being ordered by the court to stop and being assessed administrative fines. Unlicensed activity hurts too many people, and it will not be tolerated. People hiring contractors need to make sure that the contractor is properly licensed."

As part of his sentence, Aholelei was ordered to pay restitution totaling \$5,700.00 to homeowners who had paid deposits to him for contracting work. Aholelei had taken the money but did not do the work. Aholelei was also ordered to pay restitution of \$7,970.00 to the State Department of Human Services for fraudulently collecting welfare payments that he was not entitled to.

In 1998, the Regulated Industries and Complaints Office of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs obtained a civil judgment against Aholelei that ordered him to stop any further unlicensed activity, assessed a total civil fine of \$78,120.00, and restitution to three homeowners totaling \$26,117.68.

Members of the public who wish to check on a contractor's license or who have information on individuals engaging in unlicensed contracting activities are urged to call the Consumer Resource Center in the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs at 587-3222. Those checking on a