



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

### News Release

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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#### **FRAUD CRACKDOWN CONTINUES**

Attorney General Earl I. Anzai announced today that:



#### **Leslie Eileen Morimoto**

Leslie Eileen Morimoto, also known as Leslie Eileen Kendall, 45, was indicted by the Oahu grand jury on August 14, 2002 for one count of theft in the first degree. She is accused of fraudulently obtaining more than \$20,000 in public assistance benefits between March 1, 1999 and July 31, 2000. There is an outstanding bench warrant for the arrest of Mrs. Morimoto. Investigators are asking for the assistance of the public in securing the arrest of Morimoto. Morimoto is Caucasian, 5 feet 3, and weighs approximately 140 pounds. She has a fair complexion, blond hair and green eyes. Her last known address is in the Ahuimanu/Kahaluu area.

Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of Leslie Eileen Morimoto, also known as Leslie Eileen Kendall, should call Special Agent Ryan Yamasaki of the Investigations Division at (808)586-1240.

On September 19, 2002, Wahiawa resident Darnell Bolds, also known as Darnell Bryan, 41, was

arrested in connection with a Oahu grand jury indictment issued on September 11, 2002 charging her with one count of theft in the first degree for fraudulently obtaining more than \$20,000 in public assistance benefits between November 1, 1995 and January 31, 2001.

On September 18, 2002, the Oahu grand jury returned six unrelated indictments charging seven individuals with fraud-related felony theft offenses. Two individuals were charged with theft in the second degree for fraudulently obtaining unemployment benefits. The total amount of unemployment benefits allegedly stolen exceeds \$8,000. Five defendants were charged with theft in the first degree for fraudulently obtaining public assistance benefits. The total amount of public assistance benefits allegedly stolen in the welfare cases exceeds \$76,000. Bench warrants authorizing the arrests of the defendants issued in all cases. Additional information will be provided when the defendants are apprehended.

Indictments are accusations only. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in court. On September 16, 2002, First Circuit Court Judge Karen S. S. Ahn denied a request by Kailua resident Lori Ann Isagawa, 36, to defer her guilty plea to one count of theft in the first degree. Judge Ahn convicted Isagawa of that offense, placed her on probation for five years and ordered Isagawa to pay restitution in the amount of \$69,180 to the State of Hawaii and to perform 150 hours of community service. Between 1993 and 2001, Mrs. Isagawa fraudulently obtained public assistance benefits by concealing from the government that her husband was in the home and employed.

Anyone having information concerning unemployment insurance benefit fraud should call the Special Activities Unit of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations at (808) 586-8947.

Anyone having information concerning possible welfare fraud crimes should call the Welfare Fraud Hotline at (808) 587-8444.

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