



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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Care Home Operator Receives Four Year Minimum Prison Term

Honolulu, Hawaii - Attorney General Mark J. Bennett today announced that the Hawaii Paroling Authority set Raquel Bermisa's minimum prison term at four years, the maximum time allowed due to the commutation of her original sentence. Her prison term is set to expire on January 8, 2005. Ms. Bermisa was convicted of Manslaughter and originally sentenced on January 10, 2001 to a twenty-year term of imprisonment with a mandatory minimum term of six years and eight months. Former Governor Benjamin Cayetano commuted Ms. Bermisa's sentence from twenty years to four years.

"Given that four years was the maximum possible sentence after former Governor Cayetano's commutation, the four year minimum term set by the Hawaii Paroling Authority appropriately reflects the seriousness of the crime Ms. Bermisa committed," said Attorney General Bennett. "My office will continue to vigorously investigate and prosecute those individuals that neglect, abuse and exploit our elder population in Hawaii."

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