



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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ISLAND CHILD RECOVERED IN CALIFORNIA

HONOLULU - A child abducted from Lihue, Kauai, on November 26, 2003, has been reunited with his father in California, Attorney General Mark Bennett announced. Acting on a tip from neighbors in Hornbrook, California, near the Oregon border, California Highway Patrol officers recovered seven-year-old Jacob Goldschmidt and arrested his mother, Rhianna Powers, on charges of custodial interference. The child was found in good health, according to a California Highway Patrol spokesperson.

The Missing Child Center-Hawaii, a program of the Department of the Attorney General, worked with the Kauai Police Department for more than one year to locate the child. Hawaii authorities learned that Jacob's mother had taken him to the mainland, and was living with him somewhere on the west coast.

At the request of the Missing Child Center-Hawaii, Jacob was featured in the "Have You Seen Me?" missing child card program in January 2005. This successful public service program distributes cards featuring photographs of missing children to more than 107 million households by mail every month. Since the establishment of the program 19 years ago, one of every six children featured on the cards has been safely recovered. The "Have You Seen Me?" program is a partnership between ADVO, Inc., the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the U.S. Postal Service. After Jacob's photograph was featured on a "Have You Seen Me?" card, the Missing Child Center-Hawaii, the Kauai Police Department, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received dozens of calls from members of the public who believed they had seen the child.

Attorney General Mark Bennett credits interagency cooperation for the success of the Missing Child Center-Hawaii. "It is clear that our united efforts produce visible results in these cases," Bennett said.

The Missing Child Center-Hawaii always recommends an immediate call to 911 when a child is abducted, followed by a call to the Missing Child Center-Hawaii at 586-1449, or to the Center's after-hours hotline at 753-9797. The after-hours hotline is donated by Verizon Wireless.

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For more information, contact:
Charlene Takeno
Coordinator
Missing Child Center - Hawaii
(808) 586-1449
hawaiimissingkids@hawaii.gov
