



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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**STATEWIDE MAILE AMBER ALERT DEMONSTRATION A SUCCESS**

Honolulu - State Civil Defense, the Department of Transportation, and the Honolulu Police Department successfully demonstrated the new statewide MAILE AMBER Alert system today. The demonstration was initiated at 11:45 a.m. from Honolulu Police Department headquarters, with the support of the Hawaii County, Kauai County, and Maui County police departments, and the Department of the Attorney General's Missing Child Center-Hawaii.

During the demonstration, state highway signs flashed the message "CHILD ABDUCTION ALERT TEST." TV and radio stations voluntarily broadcast a test message. State Civil Defense personnel monitored the Emergency Alert System.

During an actual alert, state highway signs would flash the message "CHILD ABDUCTION ALERT/TUNE RADIO FOR INFO."

The demonstration showed that, if a child is abducted on any island, the system can quickly and effectively issue an alert to the public.

For a MAILE AMBER Alert to be issued in Hawaii, the victim must be 17 years of age or younger and believed to be in a life-threatening situation. Moreover, police must have useful information, such as a description of the suspect, the type of vehicle used in the abduction, the license number, and the direction of travel.

The MAILE AMBER Alert system is a voluntary partnership between the four county police departments, State Civil Defense, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of the Attorney General's Missing Child Center-Hawaii.

MAILE AMBER is an acronym for Minor Abducted in Life-threatening Emergency and America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response. The system was named in memory of two young girls -- Maile Gilbert of Hawaii and Amber Hagerman of Texas -- who were kidnapped from their families and murdered.

Hawaii is the fiftieth state to join the nationwide Amber Alert Program.

The Amber Alert Program is credited for approximately 200 successful recoveries nationwide.

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