



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**Sex Offender Names Returned to Website**

HONOLULU – The Department of the Attorney General has reviewed the files of 229 sex offenders whose names were temporarily removed from the state sex offender website.

A final decision has been made regarding 219 of the 229 files reviewed. Information regarding 204 of these 219 offenders (more than 93 percent) was returned to the website last week.

Of the 204 offenders whose information has been returned to the website, approximately 166 (more than 81 percent) were convicted of felony crimes involving sexual abuse or sexual assault of children under 14 years old. Thus, each of these offenders was a statutory “aggravated sex offender” subject to website public access regardless of the number of convictions.

“The fact that so many of these offenders sexually abused children demonstrates yet again the importance of public access to this information. Parents who know where convicted child molesters live can make more informed decisions about their children’s safety,” Attorney General Mark Bennett said. “We will be adding

(more)

information to the website on whether an offender's conviction involved a victim under 14."

Earlier this month, the department temporarily removed from the website the names of offenders convicted of more than one class C felony sex offense to determine whether the multiple convictions stemmed from the same incident, and whether website public access was based solely on that fact. In 15 cases, it could not be clearly demonstrated that the multiple convictions did not result from the same incident. Information on these offenders will remain available only at on-site public access terminals.

"The literal language of the law does allow such offenders to be listed on the website. However, I have decided to leave these 15 cases on on-site public access terminals only, because the Legislature may have intended that result," Bennett said.

The department is continuing its review of the remaining cases that were removed from the website -- a process that requires a manual inspection of certain documents in each offender's file. In 10 of the remaining cases, the department has started its review, but has requested additional documents or transcripts that are necessary to complete the review. In the rest of the cases, the department is awaiting documents.

"This information should be used for safety reasons only, including the protection of children," Bennett said. Any person who uses the information in the registry to injure, harass, or commit a criminal act against an offender may be subject to criminal prosecution, civil liability, or both.

The state sex offender website at [sexoffenders.hawaii.gov](http://sexoffenders.hawaii.gov) received more than 1.6 million hits in the first two weeks after a new law allowing increased public access to sex offender information was enacted by Governor Lingle on May 9, 2005.

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Liane Moriyama, Administrator of the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center, which operates the website, said, "We've received dozens of calls from parents who are grateful to have this information. Members of the public have also called to give us information on the whereabouts of offenders who failed to update their address with us, as required by law."

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