



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General
Phone: (808) 586-1500
Fax: (808) 586-1239

For Immediate Release: February 6, 2007

News Release No. 2007-03

**STATES OBTAIN \$90 MILLION FROM ALLEGED
SEMICONDUCTOR PRICE-FIXING CONSPIRACY**

HONOLULU - Attorney General Mark J. Bennett today announced that Hawaii and 40 other states reached a \$90 million nationwide settlement with Samsung Semiconductor, Inc. and Samsung Electronics Company Ltd. ("Samsung"), resolving allegations that Samsung and others major computer chip manufacturers fixed prices of Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM). While Samsung did not admit that it violated the law, it did agree to injunctive relief that will require the company to refrain from conduct that could substantially lessen competition, and to implement an antitrust compliance program.

In addition, Samsung agreed to cooperate with the states in on-going litigation seeking damages, restitution, civil penalties, and injunctive relief due to alleged price-fixing by at least seven other companies, including Elpida, Hynix, Infineon, Micron, Mosel Vitelic, Nanya, and NEC, from 1998 to 2002.

The settlement will be implemented with judicial oversight by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. Once the settlement has been approved by the court, the moneys are expected to be distributed nationwide to consumers and

News Release No. 2007-03
States Obtain \$90 Million from Alleged Semiconductor Price-Fixing Conspiracy
Page 2

certain governmental agencies that paid more for computers, servers, and other electronic devices because of the alleged price-fixing.

The settlement stems from a multi-state investigation that began in 2004, following a federal criminal investigation that exposed a scheme where DRAM manufacturers profited at the expense of the consumers in the computer and electronics industry. Samsung, Hynix, Infineon, Elpida, and numerous individuals have pleaded guilty to federal criminal price-fixing charges and have collectively paid more than \$730 million in fines.

For more information, contact:
Rodney I. Kimura, Deputy Attorney General
Department of the Attorney General
Commerce and Economic Development Division

Phone: (808) 586-1180