



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

**News Release**

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**Attorneys General To Get Info On Sex Offenders Found On MySpace**

*MySpace agrees to provide the names of convicted sex offenders on its site*

(HONOLULU) MySpace will turn over names and other information about convicted sex offenders--including Hawaii convicted sex offenders--the company has identified on its website, Attorney General Mark Bennett said today.

In Hawaii, Attorney General Bennett will share this information about registered sex offenders with other law enforcement agencies where appropriate. The data can be used, for example, to look for potential parole or probation violations by offenders who may be barred from using a computer or contacting minors.

Attorney General Bennett stated: "We are very concerned about internet predators using web sites like MySpace to target children. The information we will receive will help us to protect kids."

Following a letter sent by state attorneys general to MySpace on May 14 requesting that the company turn over information about sex offenders, MySpace has confirmed that Sentinel Tech Holdings has already identified thousands of registered sex offenders as members of the popular social networking site. MySpace has deleted these users from its site but has preserved information about them and will provide it to the attorneys general.

MySpace will continue to search its site for registered sex offenders, and will give the states information about all offenders found on its site including their email and IP addresses. The attorneys general commended MySpace for taking this important safety step.

The fact that many sex offenders have used MySpace underscores how dangerous social networking sites can be for children, the attorneys general said. In 2006 alone, the media reported almost 100 criminal incidents across the country involving adults who used MySpace to prey or to attempt to prey on children.

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The states remain concerned about other sex offenders who may be on the site using an alias and misrepresenting their age.

Since May of 2006, a group of attorneys general from 52 states and territories including Hawaii have been pushing social networking sites to do a better job protecting children from threats such as sexual predators.

Because of the attorney generals' push, MySpace has previously taken other steps to improve safety on its site such as screening profiles for inappropriate content and making certain profiles private. The attorneys general are continuing to urge MySpace to require parental permission for children to be on its site, among other safety steps.

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