



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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**HAWAII RESIDENT INDICTED FOR
THEFT OF KANUPA CAVE ARTIFACTS**

(HONOLULU) - Big Island resident, Daniel Taylor, was indicted today by a grand jury of the Third Circuit on one count of Theft in the First Degree.

Mr. Taylor is accused of having participated in the theft of Native Hawaiian artifacts that had been repatriated and reburied in Kanupa Cave on the Big Island. On or about June 17, 2004, Daniel Taylor and John Carta found Kanupa cave. The two men entered the cave and discovered items that they determined were Native Hawaiian artifacts.

Several of the items contained labels indicating that they belonged to the J.S. Emerson Collection. They removed approximately 157 artifacts from Kanupa cave. In June and July 2004, Daniel Taylor allegedly sold or attempted to sell artifacts from Kanupa Cave.

Kanupa Cave is a burial cave, located in Kohala, Hawai'i. In 1858, J.S. Emerson was taken to Kanupa Cave. Some of the artifacts that were taken from Kanupa Cave were eventually sold to the Peabody Essex Museum in Massachusetts, and C.R. Bishop, which became known as the J.S. Emerson Collection in the Bishop Museum. Subsequently, the museums repatriated some of the artifacts from their Emerson collections, which were reburied at Kanupa cave.

(more)

Theft in the First Degree is a class "B" felony punishable by up to ten years in prison and a fine of \$25,000.

"The State of Hawaii views any looting of Hawaiian burial sites as extraordinarily serious," Attorney General Mark Bennett said. "We will criminally prosecute thieves and looters to the full extent of the law."

Mr. Taylor is pending sentencing in U.S. District Court on a federal misdemeanor charge of Conspiring to Sell, Use for Profit, and Transport for Sale and Profit Native American Cultural Items in violation of the Native American Protection and Repatriation Act, which is punishable up to one year imprisonment, a fine of up to \$100,000, and a term of supervised release of up to one year.

An indictment is a mere accusation and the individual named in the indictment is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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