



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL HONORS DEPARTMENT'S  
MANAGER, EMPLOYEE, AND TEAM OF THE YEAR**

HONOLULU – Attorney General Mark Bennett has announced the Department of the Attorney General's Manager of the Year, Employee of the Year, and Team of the Year.

"It is an honor to work with these outstanding professionals," Bennett said. "I congratulate them for their accomplishments, and I commend their dedication, innovative ideas, and hard work that have helped improve the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i."

**Manager of the Year: Dorothy Sellers, Solicitor General**

As Hawai'i's Solicitor General, Ms. Sellers oversees the work of the attorneys and legal clerks in the department's Appellate Division, which handles cases in the Hawai'i Supreme Court, the Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court.

Ms. Sellers has been a leader in effecting positive change in Hawai'i. She led the State's team to reform Kamehameha Schools' governing body and trustee practices, helping to bring more accountability and improved financial security to one of the nation's largest charitable trusts. She led the State's eight-year, highly complex legal efforts to seek compensation from multiple asbestos companies, and has handled many other significant cases and helped to save the State millions of dollars.

Attorneys throughout the department consult Ms. Sellers for insightful legal guidance when they face novel or complex appellate issues. She brings out the best in her staff with her sharp thinking, unbending integrity, moral support and encouragement, and sense of humor.

**Employee of the Year: Lilia Araki, Support Payment Officer**

Ms. Araki has gone above and beyond the call in her work with the department's Child Support Enforcement Agency. In addition to her own responsibilities, Ms. Araki has taken on the duties of a trainer for the past eight years. She trains staff in many areas, including navigating the powerful and complex KEIKI information system, conducting research in KEIKI to respond to customer telephone inquiries, and completing enforcement actions.

In her capacity as a support payment officer, Ms. Araki reviews enforcement actions and orders, financial institution data, state and federal tax intercepts, credit bureau referrals, license suspensions and revocations, and passport denials. In addition, she has volunteered to work on numerous overtime projects, including the Multi-state Financial Institution Data Match project, Income Withholding Orders project, and Medical Order project. With her great efficiency, positive attitude, and ready smile, she helps to ensure that Hawai'i's children receive the support they deserve.

### **Team of the Year: Your Identity is Your Kuleana**

The Team of the Year award recognizes a group of employees that works together to perform a specific function or responds to a unique or unusual situation. Through the pooling of talents, energy, and knowledge, they accomplish a common goal that supports the organization's mission and/or vision.

With identity theft cases on the rise, the department's HITeC Unit and Community and Crime Prevention Branch worked together to create standardized training materials for use by law enforcement organizations, private businesses, and federal agencies. The training package, called *Your Identity is Your Kuleana*, includes a 175-page manual, PowerPoint presentation, Hawai'i laws on identity theft, national and state resources, and camera-ready handouts.

The team held train-the-trainer sessions in every county, training a total of 180 individuals. Since July 2007, these 180 trainers have conducted nearly 320 presentations statewide for more than 3,000 Hawai'i citizens. The team had the foresight not only to assist leaders and trainers with a comprehensive resource manual on identity theft, but also to train a cadre of community members so the prevention of identity theft can be taught to a wide spectrum of citizens.

The team members are:

Albert Cook, Deputy Attorney General

Kristell Corpuz, Community and Crime Prevention Specialist

Ephriam "Lono" Ho, Investigator

Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Deputy Attorney General

Robert Jahier, Education Specialist/Computer Forensic Examiner

Angela Kaiwikuamooihou, Community and Crime Prevention Specialist

Valerie Mariano, Branch Chief, Community and Crime Prevention Branch

Amy Tatsuno, Administrative Services Assistant

Christopher Young, Supervising Deputy Attorney General, Criminal Justice Division

Ms. Sellers, Ms. Araki, and all of the members of the *Your Identity is Your Kuleana* team will be recognized at the 2008 Governor's Awards Ceremony on October 17, 2008.

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