



# ONLINE SEX OFFENDERS

## DEFINITION:

An adult Internet user who exploits vulnerable children or teens, usually for sexual or other abusive purposes.<sup>1</sup>

## Hawaii Law:

### ● **Electronic Enticement of a Child in the First Degree (HRS §707-756)<sup>4</sup>**

Any person who, using a computer or any other electronic device:

- Intentionally or knowingly communicates: with a minor known by the person to be under the age of eighteen years; with another person, in reckless disregard of the risk that the other person is under the age of eighteen years, and the other person is under the age of eighteen years; or with another person who represents that person to be under the age of eighteen years;
- With the intent to promote or facilitate the commission of a felony: that is a murder in the first or second degree; that is a class A felony; or that is an offense defined in section 846E-1, agrees to meet with the minor, or with another person who represents that person to be a minor under the age of eighteen years; and
- Intentionally or knowingly travels to the agreed upon meeting place at the agreed upon meeting time.

**Penalty:** Class B felony; mandatory 10 years in prison. No probation.

## **FACTS:**

- 77% of children targeted by Internet predators are 14 and older. Another 22% are users ages 10 to 13.<sup>2</sup>
- Over 75% of Internet crimes involving sexual solicitations of children are not reported to police or parents.<sup>3</sup>

## References:

1. *Definition of online sex offender.* Boys and Girls Club of America. (n.d.) Web.
2. *Crimes Against Children Research Center. Facts about Online Predators.* McGruff Safeguard. (n.d.) Web.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *707 Hawaii Revised Statutes. Section 756.* Hawaii State Legislature. Web.

# Protecting Your Child from Online Sex Offenders<sup>5</sup>

- Your child should NEVER meet face-to-face with anyone they first met online.
- Take an interest in your child's online activities and know with whom he or she is communicating.
- Teach your child to refrain from talking about sex with anyone they meet online.
- Do not hesitate to ask questions, especially if your child is acting suspiciously.
- Teach your child not to reveal personal information.
- Approve all photos and videos before your child posts them online. Make sure the photos and videos do not reveal identifying information and are not sexually provocative or inappropriate.
- Look for warning signs. If you feel your child is in danger, make a report to [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com) and contact your local law enforcement agency immediately.

## Instruct Your Child:<sup>6</sup>

- That whatever they are told online may or may not be true;
- To not respond to offensive or dangerous email or messages;
- To make their profile page private; and
- To tell you if they see something that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.

## What Can Parents Do?<sup>7</sup>

- Keep the computer in a common area.
- Consider limiting your child's screen time, e.g. computer, cell phones, gaming devices, etc.
- Become computer literate and understand how the sites or apps your child uses work.
- Start this conversation as early as possible and age appropriately, e.g.
  - What's your favorite thing to do online?
  - Show me the most popular videos.

For more information, go to: [ag.hawaii.gov/cpja/ccp/internetsafety/](http://ag.hawaii.gov/cpja/ccp/internetsafety/)

### References:

5. NetSmartz. *Help Protect Your Child from Predators*. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. (n.d.) Web.
6. Prevention Tips. Hawaii Department of the Attorney General. (n.d.) Web.
7. Ibid.