



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General
Phone: (808) 586-1282
Fax: (808) 586-1239

News Release No. 2001-41 October 24, 2001

Former State of Hawaii Engineer Sentenced to Ten Years of Jail for Theft of \$750,000

Attorney General Earl I. Anzai announced today that Fidel Eviota, II (52 years old), a former engineer assigned to the Inspections Branch of the Department of Accounting and General Services, was sentenced to ten years in jail by First Circuit Judge Richard K. Perkins this morning. Mr. Eviota was also ordered to pay \$759,617.76 in restitution to the State of Hawaii. A majority of the monies illegally obtained by Mr. Eviota were traced back to the purchase and building of five homes in the Aiea and Maili areas which are currently owned by Mr. Eviota. Mr. Eviota agreed to forfeit all properties obtained with stolen funds to the State of Hawaii. In addition, Mr. Eviota has agreed to cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of other individuals that may have profited from his illegal theft scheme. A ten year jail term was imposed for each count of the complaint filed in August of 2001 which charged Mr. Eviota with Theft in the First Degree (B felony), Money Laundering (B felony), and Unlawful Ownership or Operation of a Business (B felony). All jail terms were to run concurrently.

Mr. Eviota admitted that he used a shell company named Roland's Electronic and several other individuals to launder monies he collected from various construction contractors for work that was not required on various State construction projects. Mr. Eviota used a process called a "change order" to have contractors make payments to one of his fake subcontractors and in return the contractor would be repaid by the State pursuant to the change order. No legitimate work was done to justify repayment to the contractors. Mr. Eviota stated that "this case gives notice to all State employees that when the public trust is violated the Attorney General's Office will prosecute that employee to the fullest extent of the law."
