

# *News Releases*

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## **FELIX FRAUD INVESTIGATION PRODUCES FELONY INDICTMENT**

Attorney General, Earl I. Anzai, vows to further intensify the State's investigation into fraud associated with the Felix consent decree in the wake of an indictment targeting a provider for filing false claims with the State.

Susan Puapuaga is charged with ten (10) counts of Medical Assistance Fraud, a class C Felony. The charges stem from claims Puapuaga submitted to the State for services she did not render. Puapuaga served as a therapeutic aid with Alaka'i Na Keiki, an organization that provided services to special needs children under the Felix consent decree. A grand jury bench warrant authorizes Puapuaga's arrest.

The indictment serves to formally accuse Ms. Puapuaga, but she is presumed innocent until proven guilty at trial or upon a plea of guilty or no contest. Anzai recently obtained executive approval for two (2) additional special investigators to focus on fraud and administrative irregularities associated with the costly implementation of the Felix Consent decree.

The Attorney General is presently pursuing criminal and civil cases on Oahu and the neighbor islands. The cooperation of the service recipients is crucial to the success of this investigation. Anzai encourages individuals who know of false claims and irregular billing practices to come forward with information that can be used to further the investigation. Anyone having information should contact the Department of the Attorney General's Medicaid Investigations Division at 586-1058.

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