

News Releases

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WELFARE FRAUD CRACKDOWN CONTINUES

Attorney General Earl I. Anzai announced today that:

On June 19, 2002, the Oahu Grand Jury indicted Waianae residents Charity Willing, 30, and George Joseph K. Willing, Jr., 32, for one count of the theft in the second degree and one count of theft in the first degree. They are charged with fraudulently obtaining more than \$20,300.00 in public assistance benefits between 1994 and 2001. Trial was set for September 16, 2002.

An indictment is an accusation only, the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty at trial.

During the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2002, the Criminal Justice Division of the Department of the Attorney General and the county prosecutors successfully prosecuted 112 individuals for welfare fraud involving the theft of public assistance benefits having a value of more than \$2,233,000.00. During the same time period, 806 additional individuals received administrative sanctions, including the termination of public assistance benefits, for intentional program violations. Those cases involved an additional \$868,000.00 in public assistance benefits that the recipients were not lawfully entitled to receive.

Anyone having information regarding possible welfare fraud should call the Welfare Fraud Hotline at (808) 587-8444.