



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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FRAUD CRACKDOWN CONTINUES, WOMAN SENTENCED TO JAIL

Attorney General Earl I. Anzai announced today that:

On October 2, 2002, First Circuit Court Judge Wilfred K. Watanabe revoked the probation sentence given to former Honolulu resident Leeann K. Anies, also known as Leeann K. Purdy, 42, for one count of theft in the first degree and sent Mrs. Anies to jail for one year.

On December 20, 2000, Mrs. Anies was placed on probation for five years for fraudulently obtaining more than \$74,000.00 in public assistance benefits. Between 1994 and 1999, Mrs. Anies concealed from the government that her husband was in the home and employed. When Anies failed to keep appointments with her probation officer and failed to make modest monthly restitution payments, the state moved to revoke her probation. A bench warrant issued for the arrest of Mrs. Anies. She was arrested in Las Vegas, Nevada in June of this year and returned to Hawaii in handcuffs to answer the motion to revoke her probation. Judge Watanabe granted the state's motion, placed Mrs. Anies on a new five year period of probation and added the special term that she spend one year in jail.

While first time offenders convicted of welfare fraud related crimes often receive probation sentences, the Criminal Justice Division and county prosecutors monitor compliance with probation orders and ask the courts to revoke probation sentences and to re-sentence defendants who inexcusably fail to comply with the terms of probation sentences. Re-sentencing usually means jail or prison.

On September 30, 2002, Honolulu resident Lori Ann Santiago, 32, was arraigned on an Oahu grand jury indictment charging her with two counts of theft in the second degree. In count 1, Ms. Santiago is charged with fraudulently obtaining more than \$300 in public assistance benefits in

1996. In count 2, she is charged with fraudulently obtaining more than \$300 in public assistance benefits between 1998 and 2002. Trial is set for December 2, 2002.

An indictment is an accusation only. Ms. Santiago is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

On September 24, 2002, Waipahu resident Marcieann Kaolulo, 31, pled no contest to one count of theft in the first degree before First Circuit Court Judge Sandra A. Simms. Between 1995 and 2001, Ms. Kaolulo fraudulently obtained more than \$52,000 in public assistance benefits by concealing from government workers that the father of her minor children was in the home and employed. Sentencing will take place on February 11, 2003.

On September 23, 2002, New Jersey resident Gregg R. Jorgensen, 48, returned to Hawaii and pled no contest to one count of theft in the first degree before First Circuit Court Judge Karen S.S. Ahn. Between 1996 and 2001, Gregg Jorgensen, also known as William D. Zogg and Philip D. Pallone, fraudulently obtained more than \$82,000 in public assistance benefits by using multiple identities, by concealing his marriage to another public assistance recipient, co-defendant Carolyn Flanders, and by concealing his employment income. Sentencing will take place on March 17, 2003.

In addition to possible jail or prison sentences, a felony conviction for welfare fraud offenses can have significant collateral consequences. A felony conviction means that the defendant will be barred from receiving food stamps for a minimum of one year and in some cases for life. An alien can be deported and denied future entry into the United States.

Every year, tips from the public save the state of Hawaii millions of dollars in public assistance money. Anyone having information concerning possible welfare fraud crimes should call the Welfare Fraud Hotline at (808) 587-8444.
