



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

### News Release

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#### **HAWAII INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE ARRESTS HONOLULU MAN FOR ELECTRONIC ENTICEMENT OF A CHILD**

Attorney General Earl I. Anzai announced that on Friday afternoon, November 1, 2002, state, local and federal law enforcement agents of the Hawaii Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (HICACTF), arrested an active duty member of the United States military in Honolulu for the offense of Electronic Enticement of a Child. This is the first arrest in the State of Hawaii for this offense that was created by the Hawaii Legislature in 2002.

Anzai noted that the arrest occurred as a result of a training exercise and not based on a tip or investigation. The arrest came at the end of a week-long training class for HICACTF personnel into how to intercept predators that use the Internet to target children for sexual activity. Class participants included personnel from the Department of the Attorney General, the Honolulu Police Department, the Kauai County Police Department, and the Maui County Police Department. On Friday afternoon, one of the personnel in the class was conducting an exercise online when he was contacted by an adult who believed he was talking to a local thirteen year-old girl. Eventually the adult asked the person he thought was a thirteen year-old girl to meet him for sex. Law enforcement officers from the Honolulu Police Department and the Department of the Attorney General, in conjunction with federal law enforcement personnel from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Customs Service, and the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations, arrested the adult when he arrived at the meeting place. The computer used by the service member to arrange for the sexual activity was seized and he was subsequently released back to military authorities pending further investigation.

Anzai stated that throughout the training the participants were contacted by a surprising number of suspicious persons. "The large number of suspicious contacts indicates that the Internet is being widely used for improper purposes," Anzai said. The Attorney General asks parents and children to

be mindful of the potential for abuse of the Internet, particularly when adults seek to arrange meetings with children via Internet chat rooms or by email. To aid parents and children to recognize the danger areas on the Internet and to help them take protective measures, the HICACTF has created a web site at [www.hicac.com](http://www.hicac.com). The web site contains safety tips and provides information on how to report any suspected illegal Internet activity that targets children.

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