



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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ODOMETER ROLLBACK INDICTMENT ANNOUNCED

HONOLULU-Attorney General Mark Bennett announced today that Honolulu resident Mariann Woods, 26, was indicted on May 21, 2003 by an Oahu Grand Jury and charged with one count of attempted theft in the second degree and one count of misrepresenting the mileage on an automobile in connection with the attempted sale of a 1992 Toyota Previa. Woods pled not guilty and trial is set for August 11, 2003 before First Circuit Court Judge Michael D. Wilson.

An indictment is an accusation only. Ms. Woods is presumed innocent until proven guilty at trial. Attempted theft in the second degree is a class C felony punishable by up to five years in prison and by a fine of up to \$10,000 or twice the pecuniary gain from the crime whichever is greater.

Misrepresenting the mileage on an automobile in connection with the sale of a car to a prospective buyer is a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and by a fine of up to \$2,000 or twice the pecuniary gain from the crime whichever is greater.

In addition, individuals who misrepresent the mileage on a car to a buyer are liable for civil damages equal to three times actual damages or \$1,500.00 whichever is greater as well as costs and reasonable attorney fees.

Last year more than 450,000 automobiles with rolled back odometers were fraudulently passed off on American consumers at a cost of more than one billion dollars.

If you believe that you may have been the victim of an odometer rollback scam, you should contact your local police department or the Investigations Division of the Department of the Attorney General at (808) 586-1240.

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