



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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For Immediate Release: December 12, 2003 News Release No. 2003-71

CRIME IN HAWAII DOWN 2.1% IN FIRST HALF OF 2003

Honolulu, Hawaii - The Department of the Attorney General's semi-annual Uniform Crime Report shows that the number of Index Crimes reported in Hawaii during the first six months of 2003 decreased 2.1% from the number reported during the first half of 2002. The number of violent Index Crimes (murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault) increased 10.9%, while property Index Crimes (burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft) fell 2.7%.

The number of murders reported in the first six months of 2003 fell 8.3%, although the tally of other violent crimes increased: forcible rapes were up 1.6%; robberies were up 13.3%; and aggravated assaults were up 11.7%.

For property Index Crimes, the number of offenses reported in Hawaii for the first half of 2003 decreased 7.4% for burglary and 3.6% for larceny-theft. Motor vehicle thefts increased 8.5%.

The State's overall decrease in Index Crimes in the first six months of 2003 was attributable to a 5.7% decrease in the City & County of Honolulu (+7.5% violent crimes, -6.4% property crimes). Increases were reported by the other three counties: Hawaii County was up 6.8% (+22.5% violent crimes, +6.3% property crimes); Maui County was up 13.7% (+15.1% violent crimes, +13.6% property crimes); and Kauai County was up 3.7% (+35.4% violent crimes, +1.9% property crimes).

Statewide arrests decreased 9.1% for juveniles and 0.4% for adults in the first half of 2003. Juvenile Index Crime arrests - the best available measure of the extent of serious juvenile crime in Hawaii - set five consecutive annual record lows starting in 1998 and are on pace to extend the trend to six years in 2003.

The proportion of Index Crimes cleared by arrest or "exceptional means" (e.g., death of the offender, etc.) increased 38.1%, up from 8.4% in the first six months of 2002 to 11.6% in the first half of 2003.

The value of property reported stolen decreased 8.6%, from approximately \$32.2 million in the first six months of 2002 to about \$29.4 million during the first half of 2003.

Copies of the four-page report can be downloaded from the Crime Prevention & Justice Assistance Division's web site at cpja.ag.state.hi.us.

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