



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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WOMAN INDICTED FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS THEFT

HONOLULU-Attorney General Mark Bennett announced today that: On March 15, 2004, Honolulu resident Marie Louise Yim, 41, was arraigned on an indictment charging her with one count of theft in the second degree. Ms. Yim is accused of fraudulently obtaining social security survivor benefits belonging to a minor child. Trial is set for May 17, 2004.

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.

An indictment is an accusation only. Ms. Yim is presumed innocent until proven guilty at trial.

When a parent dies, surviving minor children may become eligible for Social Security survivor benefits. Under the law, anyone who obtains Social Security survivor benefits for a minor child is required to use those funds for the benefit of the child or to save them for the benefit of the child. Misuse of a child's Social Security benefits is a crime under state and federal law.

Anyone having information that someone fraudulently obtained or is fraudulently using Social Security benefits should contact the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271 or oig.hotline@ssa.gov.

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