



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

**News Release**

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For Immediate Release: June 5, 2006

News Release No. 2006-15

**JUDGE SENTENCES DEFENDANT TO ONE YEAR IN JAIL FOR  
DUMPING TAR INTO A STORM DRAIN**

HONOLULU - On May 30, 2006, Judge Richard Pollack sentenced Jerry G. Souza, II, to 3 years probation and one year in jail for dumping tar into a storm drain. The jail sentence was part of a plea agreement in which Souza pled guilty as charged for water pollution and other felony offenses.

The State alleged that Souza and co-defendant Michael Nueva were trying to drain the leftover tar from a derelict tar truck they were planning to sell to a metal recycler. An alert citizen observed the defendants draining the tar out of the truck and called 911. Authorities found a bucket of tar next to the gutter leading into the storm drain and wet tar at the bottom of the drain. The storm drain leads to a drainage canal that leads to the ocean.

There are storm drains on almost every street in Honolulu. Because these drains are usually dry, some people don't see the harm in causing paint, oil, pesticides and other household chemicals to flow into them. But when it rains, the water flows into the storm drain and carries these pollutants directly into our rivers and oceans, where our children swim. Knowingly dumping or causing water pollutants to enter a storm drain is a felony offense that can result in a jail sentence of up to three (3) years.

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