

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



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## **TWO NEW CANINES WILL HELP POLICE LOCATE MISSING PERSONS**

HONOLULU, Hawaii – The Department of the Attorney General's Missing Child Center-Hawaii introduced Bella and Magnum, the newest canine aides in missing person searches, at a news conference on Thursday, July 14, 2011, at the Sister Roberta Park, located next to the Honolulu Police Department's Alapai headquarters.

Bella and Magnum are scent-discriminating tracking dogs specially trained to assist in the location and recovery of missing persons. Bella, a Bloodhound, will train with Annie, the Honolulu Police Department's first Bloodhound, who turns 10 years old this year. Magnum, a Labrador, will join the Hawaii Police Department's canine unit. The two will also assist with locating lost hikers and persons suffering from dementia or other debilitating conditions and with tracking escapees and fugitives.

The two dogs are being donated by the Atherton Foundation and the Friends of the Missing Child Center-Hawaii.

"We are pleased to participate in this collaborative effort to provide the Honolulu and Hawaii police departments with this valuable resource. Bella and Magnum reinforce our commitment to protecting Hawaii's children and recovering missing persons," said Attorney General David Louie.

"The HPD's Missing Persons Section receives more than 500 missing person reports annually," said Police Chief Louis Kealoha. "While the majority of these persons are found safe within 24 hours, dogs like Annie and Bella are critical in helping to locate individuals for whom time is of the essence."

In a rare occasion that a stranger abduction of a child may occur, the first three hours are critical to a safe recovery of a child.

"While it's thankfully rare that a child goes missing in our community, we must remain prepared for such a tragic event. Since our last canine aide, "Tucker," retired more than three years ago, we have been without such an asset in West Hawaii," said Hawaii Police Chief Harry Kubojiri. "We anxiously await "Magnum's" arrival on our island."

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The Missing Child Center-Hawaii, a branch of the Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division of the Department of the Attorney General, assists with investigations of missing children, coordinates with and assists other government and nonprofit agencies in locating and recovering missing children, assists in training law enforcement, other professionals, and the public on issues relating to missing children, and operates a resource center for information about preventing the abduction and exploitation of children. For information about the center, call 586-1449. After hours, call the Missing Child Center-Hawaii hotline at 753-9797.

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