



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

**News Release**

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR

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**Dentist Sentenced for Medicaid Fraud**

HONOLULU – Joseph Perrino, DDS, formerly of Honolulu, will pay \$35,700 in restitution and fines, and will perform 500 hours of community service for making false claims to the State Medicaid program and Hawaii Dental Service (HDS). The Honorable Richard K. Perkins, Judge First Circuit Court, sentenced Perrino this morning. Judge Perkins rejected Perrino’s request to defer his plea and have his record expunged. Instead, Judge Perkins found Perrino guilty and imposed the sentence.

Perrino owned and operated a clinic in Waianae for fifteen years. He sold the practice in January of 2011 after learning of the investigation into his fraudulent activities. The fraud and theft charges stemmed from a scheme by Perrino whereby he submitted claims for dental restorations but either failed to perform those restorations, or actually provided a service far less involved and less costly than a restoration. Restorations are essentially fillings where amalgam or resin is used to restore the function, integrity, and morphology of missing tooth structure such as that which results from a cavity or other dental condition.

Perrino’s fraudulent claims were discovered during a routine review by the MedQuest Division of the Department of Human Services and a subsequent peer review by HDS who had independent dentists review Perrino’s claims. HDS will receive \$2,500 for the fraudulent claims Perrino submitted to it. Perrino can no longer participate in Medicaid and with HDS.

Under the agreement with the State, Perrino is to pay his fine (\$10,000), and restitution (\$25,700) by the close of Court business today. His community service is to commence immediately.

Attorney General David M. Louie said “I am very pleased with Judge Perkins’ ruling and the sentence that was imposed. This case demonstrates that the state will aggressively investigate and prosecute any individual committing fraud.”

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