

DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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ATTORNEY GENERAL CHARGES TWO INMATES WITH ESCAPE FOR VIOLATING FURLOUGHS

HONOLULU – Attorney General Doug Chin has filed felony escape charges against two O'ahu inmates for violating furlough. Both O'ahu Community Correctional Center ("OCCC") escapee Isaiah Kaisa and Women's Community Correctional Center ("WCCC") escapee Cheryl Nihoa have been charged with escape in the second degree, HRS §710-1021. This is a class C felony punishable by up to five years in prison.

Kaisa was given a work furlough pass on April 4, 2015 and failed to return to OCCC on April 5, 2015. He turned himself in one day later. At the time of his escape, Kaisa was concurrently serving 10 and 5 year terms of imprisonment. His prior convictions included ownership or possession of a prohibited weapon, unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle, forgery, and identity theft.

Nihoa has been serving a five year prison term for a 2012 assault in the second degree. She was given a furlough pass from WCCC on April 7, 2015 and was scheduled to return that evening. She failed to return and was located at an acquaintance's apartment on May 20, 2015, and arrested. Nihoa has prior convictions for promoting a dangerous drug in the third degree and prohibited acts related to drug paraphernalia.

Attorney General Chin said of the charges, "Escape from a work furlough program or any other type of furlough release shows a lack of respect for our criminal justice system and a disregard for the second chance that such programs provide. The Department of the Attorney General will aggressively prosecute anyone who escapes from prison, including those who do so by violating such furloughs."

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