



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release  
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News Release 2017-159

**TWO CHARGED WITH WELFARE FRAUD**

HONOLULU – Attorney General Doug Chin today announced welfare fraud charges have been filed in unrelated cases against Rowaena Baker and Lucyma Maifea.

**Attorney General Doug Chin** said, “Public assistance benefits must go to people who need them and legitimately qualify. Sadly, some abuse the system.”

Baker, a 35-year old Aiea resident, is charged with first degree theft. The complaint against her alleges that between May 1, 2014 and April 30, 2017, she applied for and received public assistance benefits to which she was not entitled. This resulted in the Department of Human Services (DHS) making more than \$20,000.00 in overpayments to Baker.

Maifea, a 41-year old Waianae resident, is also charged with first degree theft. The complaint against her alleges that between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2014, she applied for and received public assistance benefits to which she was not entitled. This resulted in DHS making more than \$20,000.00 in overpayments to Maifea.

First degree theft is a Class B felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$25,000.00 fine.

Baker and Maifea are each presumed innocent unless and until found guilty of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

Copies of the complaints (felony informations) are attached.

# # #

For more information, contact:  
Joshua A. Wisch  
Special Assistant to the Attorney General  
Phone: (808) 586-1284  
Email: [Joshua.A.Wisch@hawaii.gov](mailto:Joshua.A.Wisch@hawaii.gov)  
Web: <http://ag.hawaii.gov>  
Twitter: @ATGHlGov

ORIGINAL

DOUGLAS S. CHIN 6465  
Attorney General of Hawaii

DAVID L. WILLIAMS 8050  
Deputy Attorney General  
Department of the Attorney  
General, State of Hawaii  
333 Queen Street, Suite 200  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone: (808) 586-1160  
Facsimile: (808) 586-1375  
Email: [Criminal.Justice@hawaii.gov](mailto:Criminal.Justice@hawaii.gov)

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FIRST CIRCUIT  
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13-NOV-2017  
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Attorneys for the State of Hawaii

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

STATE OF HAWAII

STATE OF HAWAII	)	CASE NO. _____
	)	(INVO No. O-01001041)
	)	
vs.	)	THEFT IN THE FIRST DEGREE
	)	(§§ 708-830(2) and 708-830.5(1)(a), H.R.S.)
	)	
ROWAENA BAKER,	)	FELONY INFORMATION; EXHIBIT A
	)	
Defendant.	)	
_____	)	

FELONY INFORMATION

The Department of the Attorney General charges:

On or about May 1, 2014, to and including April 30, 2017, in the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii, ROWAENA BAKER, as one scheme and/or continuing course of conduct, did intentionally obtain or exert control over the property of another, to wit, public assistance benefits, by deception, the value of which ROWAENA BAKER was aware or believed exceeded Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20, 000), and which did exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000), with intent to deprive another of the property, thereby committing the offense of Theft in the First Degree in violation of Sections 708-830(2) and 708-830.5(1)(a), of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

“Deception” occurs when a person knowingly creates or confirms another’s impression which is false and which the defendant does not believe to be true, or fails to correct a false impression which the person previously has created or confirmed.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii, November 1, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DAVID L. WILLIAMS  
Deputy Attorney General  
State of Hawaii

DOUGLAS S. CHIN 6465  
Attorney General of Hawaii

DAVID L. WILLIAMS 8050  
Deputy Attorney General  
Department of the Attorney  
General, State of Hawaii  
333 Queen Street, Suite 200  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone: (808) 586-1160  
Facsimile: (808) 586-1375  
Email: [Criminal.Justice@hawaii.gov](mailto:Criminal.Justice@hawaii.gov)

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FIRST CIRCUIT  
1CPC-17-0001614  
13-NOV-2017  
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Attorneys for the State of Hawaii

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

STATE OF HAWAII

STATE OF HAWAII	)	CASE NO. _____
	)	(INVO No. O-060961)
	)	
vs.	)	THEFT IN THE FIRST DEGREE
	)	(§§ 708-830(2) and 708-830.5(1)(a), H.R.S.)
	)	
LUCYMA P. MAIFEA,	)	FELONY INFORMATION; EXHIBIT A
	)	
	)	
<u>Defendant.</u>	)	

FELONY INFORMATION

The Department of the Attorney General charges:

On or about January 1, 2008, to and including December 31, 2014, in the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii, LUCYMA P. MAIFEA, as one scheme and/or continuing course of conduct, did intentionally obtain or exert control over the property of another, to wit, public assistance benefits, by deception, the value of which LUCYMA P. MAIFEA was aware or believed exceeded Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20, 000.00), and which did exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) with intent to deprive another of the property, thereby committing

the offense of Theft in the First Degree in violation of Sections 708-830(2) and 708-830.5(1)(a), of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

“Deception” occurs when a person knowingly creates or confirms another’s impression which is false and which the defendant does not believe to be true, or fails to correct a false impression which the person previously has created or confirmed.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii, November 1, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DAVID L. WILLIAMS', written over a horizontal line.

DAVID L. WILLIAMS  
Deputy Attorney General  
State of Hawaii

