



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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### **Hawaii Attorney General Joins Bi-Partisan Coalition of Attorneys General Raising Concerns About Illegal Online Alcohol Sales**

HONOLULU – Attorney General Clare E. Connors today joined a bipartisan coalition of 46 state and territory Attorneys General, led by Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry and Maine Attorney General Aaron M. Frey, in calling on Facebook, Craigslist, and eBay to take proactive measures against alcohol sales on their platforms which frequently violate state laws.

“The purchase of alcohol through online platforms raises serious consumer protection concerns, and even health concerns,” said Attorney General Connors. “Facebook, Craigslist, and eBay must take immediate action and prioritize our communities’ welfare.”

In the letter, the Attorneys General note that the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment invests the right to regulate the sale of alcohol to each state, and points out concerns that unlicensed, unregulated, and untaxed alcohol sales are taking place on digital platforms. Some of the products sold on this platform may be counterfeit or tainted, sometimes with harmful health effects. The consumer may not know that this method of alcohol sales is illegitimate, or that these black-market products could pose health risks.

“We believe that everyone has an ethical and moral responsibility to protect consumers, especially those who are most vulnerable to fraud,” write the Attorneys General. “Self-regulation and self-policing to prevent illegal and unfair trade practices and ensure consumer safety are minimum responsibilities for your respective companies. You have the technical prowess and power to accomplish basic protections against illegal sales.”

The letter asks Facebook, Craigslist, and eBay to take the following specific actions:

- 1) Review the current content posted to the companies’ websites and remove illegal postings for the sales and/or transfer of alcohol products.

- 2) Develop and deploy programming to block and prevent your platform users from violating state law by posting content for the sale and distribution of alcohol products on their websites.

The Attorneys General also invited the companies to join with them to form a working group with stakeholders from government and industry to further explore how to establish practical and effective protocols for preventing illegal alcohol sales.

A copy of the letters are available [here](#).

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