



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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**HAWAII ATTORNEY GENERAL JOINS COALITION FILING COMPLAINT
IN ONGOING ANTITRUST PRICE-FIXING INVESTIGATION INTO
GENERIC DRUG INDUSTRY**

HONOLULU – Hawaii Attorney General Clare E. Connors today joined a multistate coalition of 51 jurisdictions led by Connecticut in filing a lawsuit stemming from an ongoing antitrust investigation into a widespread conspiracy by generic drug manufacturers to artificially inflate and manipulate prices, reduce competition, and unreasonably restrain trade for generic drugs sold across the United States and used to treat a variety of skin conditions, pain, and allergies. This new Complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut focuses on 80 topical generic drugs. The Complaint names 26 corporate defendants and 10 individual defendants, and seeks damages, civil penalties, and actions by the court to restore competition to the generic drug market.

“The breadth of the conspiracy set forth in this complaint reflects a level of corporate greed among generic drug manufacturers that has affected consumers, businesses and government,” said Attorney General Connors.

Between 2007 and 2014, three generic drug manufacturers, Taro, Perrigo, and Fougera (now known as Sandoz) sold nearly two-thirds of all generic topical products dispensed in the United States. The multistate investigation uncovered comprehensive evidence of unlawful agreements to minimize competition and raise prices on dozens of topical products. The Complaint alleges longstanding agreements among manufacturers to ensure a “fair share” of the market for each competitor, and to prevent “price erosion” due to competition.

The Complaint stems from an ongoing investigation built on evidence from several cooperating witnesses at the core of the conspiracy, a massive document database of over 20 million documents, and a phone records database containing millions of call detail records and contact information for over 600 sales and pricing individuals in the generics industry. Among the records obtained by the States is a two-volume notebook

containing the contemporaneous notes of one of the States' cooperators that memorialized his discussions during phone calls with competitors and internal company meetings over a period of several years.

The Complaint is the third to be filed in the ongoing investigation that has been referred to as possibly the largest domestic corporate cartel case in the history of the United States.

Attorney General Connors joined the attorneys general of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Territory of Guam, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, U.S. Virgin Islands, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin in filing the complaint.

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