



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU 'ĀINA O HAWAII

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA

ANNE LOPEZ
ATTORNEY GENERAL

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FIRST IN STATE TO
SECURE CONVICTION UNDER NEW HABITUAL UNLICENSED DRIVER
LAW**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HONOLULU – The Department of the Attorney General is the first prosecuting authority in the state of Hawai'i to bring charges under the enhanced penalty provisions of Act 212, a law targeting habitual offenders who repeatedly drive without a valid license.

The charges resulted in the prosecution and conviction of Michael Johnson in *State v. Michael Johnson*, Case No. 1CPC-24-0001429.

Act 212 of the 32nd Legislature of the state of Hawai'i was signed into law by Governor Green on July 5, 2024. The law created enhanced penalties for individuals who habitually drive without a license and was enacted in response to increasing traffic fatalities across the state, including the tragic death of Sara Yara.

“The Department of the Attorney General remains committed to conscientious prosecution and brought these charges in light of Mr. Johnson’s 17 prior convictions for Driving Without a License within the last five years,” said Attorney General Anne Lopez.

“Habitual unlicensed drivers pose a serious risk to public safety and Act 212 provides important accountability measures to address that conduct.”

This conviction was made possible by the dedicated work of members of the Department of Law Enforcement who investigated the matter and Sheriffs who made the initial traffic stop.

The case was prosecuted by the Department of the Attorney General’s Criminal Justice Division. Both the Department of the Attorney General and the Department of Law Enforcement remain committed to promoting safety for drivers and pedestrians of the state of Hawai‘i.

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