



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

**News Release**

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**HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL RELEASED FROM FEDERAL OVERSIGHT**  
*13-year civil rights lawsuit dismissed today*

HONOLULU – At U.S. District Court today, the Honorable David A. Ezra dismissed the thirteen-year civil rights federal lawsuit against Hawaii State Hospital based on a jointly filed stipulation by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Hawaii Attorney General. The parties recognized that the hospital has made significant advancements in the treatment and care of patients and is now in substantial compliance with court ordered requirements.

Health Director Chiyome Fukino, M.D. said, "This is a tremendous accomplishment for the state and credit goes to the dedication and hard work of our hospital administration and staff that have created a place of quality care and treatment which now serves as a model to the rest of the nation. The administration is committed to continual improvement of mental health services in Hawaii and we look forward to the completion of the developments called for by the Community Plan."

The HSH Remedial Plan was the last in a series of federal court orders requiring improvement of the living conditions and treatment offered at the Hawaii State Hospital that began with a Settlement Agreement signed by the State and U.S. Department of

Justice in September 1991. Since then, the hospital has implemented major changes in patient care which have included effective recovery planning, increased focus on patient and staff safety, a dramatic decrease in the use of seclusion and restraints, maintenance of adequate staffing levels, upgrading of the hospital security management systems and MIS capabilities, physical plant improvements and psychosocial rehabilitation programming.

Judge Ezra's decision dismisses thirteen (13) year-old claims against Hawaii State Hospital, retains jurisdiction over the development of Hawaii's public community mental health system, and extends the date for completion of the Plan for Community Mental Health Services to June 30, 2006.

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