



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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For Immediate Release: May 19, 2003 News Release No. 2003-21

NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY RAISES AWARENESS

Honolulu, Hawaii - May 25th is National Missing Children's Day. It is a special day in which we join as a nation to remember the hundreds of thousands of American children we have lost, to renew our resolve and dedication to reuniting families with their loved ones, and to rejoice for those who have returned.

On May 25th, 1979 six-year-old Etan Patz kissed his mother goodbye and started off for school. He vanished from the streets of New York City never to be seen again. There are thousands of horrifying stories like this from all across our nation. Although the passing of time can cause these tragic events to become distant in our minds, we must never forget our missing children.

In commemoration of all missing children, the Missing Child Center-Hawaii, a program within the Department of the Attorney General, and the Missing Children's Clearinghouse Advisory Board will be hosting various events to raise awareness about this special day.

The first such event will be a recognition luncheon on May 21st at the Bishop Museum to present the Governor's proclamation for Hawaii's Missing Children's Day and, on behalf of families of missing children, to acknowledge the efforts of special people and organizations in our state that are committed to the recovery and prevention of missing children. State officials, law enforcement members, local business and corporate representatives, and families of victims are expected to be in attendance.

On May 24th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Kahala Mall, Mutual of Omaha, and the Missing Child Center - Hawaii will be hosting a KidCare Identification Event, center-stage at the mall. No other tool is more important in the recovery of a missing child than a current high quality photograph. We invite you to stop by and have a free identification record made for your child that will include a photograph, fingerprints, and safety tips. The Missing Child Center - Hawaii and law enforcement personnel will be on hand to answer questions about child safety. McGruff, the Crime Dog, will be there to encourage children to "stay safe." Children will receive a gift bag along with their completed identification. This event is being sponsored by HMSA, Burger King, The Gap, KFC, General Quality Handwork, Miss Hawaii USA 2003, Junior League's Impact Honolulu Program, and Longs Drugs.

The Missing Child Center and the Clearinghouse Advisory Board are asking everyone to help "light

their way home" for missing children by joining them on the evening of May 25th at the Kapiolani Park bandstand from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for a candlelight vigil to commemorate all missing children, "offer a renewal of hope" to those families who are still searching, and celebrate those who have returned. For the families of missing children, this day helps to signify the hope we all share for the safe return of our children and the community's pledge to never stop looking.

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