



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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UNLICENSED CARE HOME OPERATOR SENTENCED FOR ELDER NEGLECT

HONOLULU – Jason Craig of Kalaheo, Kauai, has been sentenced to five years in prison for the neglect of an elderly resident of an unlicensed care home operated by Craig.

In December 2004, Craig, 41, arranged to care for an 82-year-old man who suffered from Parkinson's Disease and dementia, at the rate of \$4,000 per month. The man's wife was unaware that Craig did not have a license to operate the care home.

In March 2005, during a physical examination, the elderly man's doctor's found him to be emaciated, extremely weak, and dehydrated. The doctor also discovered a severe bed sore on his lower back and other smaller ulcers on his buttocks and shoulder. The man had lost twenty pounds while under Craig's care. The man's wife later discovered that Craig had not given her husband medications that she had supplied to Craig for her husband's treatment.

The man was immediately admitted to Wilcox Memorial Hospital in critical condition. Hospital staff determined that the man was suffering from sepsis and had had a small heart attack. The man recovered from his injuries after treatment at the hospital. He died several months later of respiratory failure.

Craig was indicted by a Kauai grand jury in February 2007. Following a bench trial in November 2007 before Judge Randal Valenciano, Craig was found guilty of Assault in the Second Degree, a class C felony, for recklessly causing serious bodily injury to the man. Craig was also found guilty of Operating a Care Home Without a License, a misdemeanor. On April 17, 2008, Judge Valenciano sentenced Craig to five years in prison for the assault, and one year in prison for the unlicensed operation of the care home.

This case was investigated and prosecuted by the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Department of the Attorney General. The Unit investigates and prosecutes provider fraud involving medical assistance programs, as well as patient abuse and neglect statewide.

To report fraud or abuse of dependent adults, call the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit at 586-6390, or call the Department of Human Services' Adult Protective Services hotline at 832-5115.

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