

DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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HONOLULU MAN RECEIVES TEN-YEAR SENTENCE FOR ELECTRONIC ENTICEMENT OF A CHILD

HONOLULU – Ronald Young, a 38-year-old Honolulu man, also known as "kustom_builderz_86", was sentenced today by the Honorable Steven S. Alm to ten years in prison for the offense of Electronic Enticement of a Child in the First Degree. Young is also required by law to register as a sex offender.

Young, a self-employed carpenter, used the Internet to solicit a law enforcement officer whom he believed to be a 13-year-old girl. In online chats, Young indicated that he wanted to engage in sexual intercourse and oral sex with the "girl", and arranged to pick her up at Kahala Mall and take her elsewhere to have sex. He was arrested when he arrived at the meeting place at the agreed-upon time.

Young was indicted by a Honolulu grand jury on August 15, 2007 and pled guilty on January 25, 2008.

Because this case arose before May 16, 2008, Judge Alm had the option to sentence Young to probation with one year in prison, but chose to impose the maximum penalty of ten years in prison. Under a new law (Act 80, Session Laws of Hawai`i 2008), courts must impose a mandatory sentence of ten years in prison on Internet predators who commit Electronic Enticement of a Child in the First Degree after May 16, 2008.

"Internet predators misuse technology to reach young people in their homes and lure, trick, shame, or pressure them into meeting for sex. They target children who are too young or inexperienced to recognize the danger of meeting a stranger alone," Attorney General Mark Bennett said. "We are pleased that Judge Alm agreed with our recommendation to impose a ten-year sentence in this case, and we are pleased that the new law makes a ten-year sentence mandatory. This sends a clear message to Internet predators: Law enforcement agents are looking for you, and if you are convicted you will receive a ten-year prison sentence."

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The investigation of Young involved law enforcement agents of the Hawai`i Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, including the Department of the Attorney General and the Honolulu Police Department.

The task force has created a Web site at www.hicac.com to help parents and young people recognize the dangers of the Internet and take protective measures. The site contains safety tips and provides information on how to report suspected illegal Internet activity that targets children.

Anyone having information concerning possible Internet crimes against children is encouraged to call the Department of the Attorney General at (808) 586-1240.

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