

## **“This Week With Hawaii’s Law Enforcement”**

Welcome back to "This Week With Hawaii's Law Enforcement." During this next segment of our show, we are going to update you on recently charged federal crimes in Hawaii.

[SOUND EFFECT OF POLICE SIREN]

This first case is called the "Waimalu Subway Robber" case.

Last month, on June 24, 2006, a person with a gun robbed the Waimalu Subway Restaurant. Surveillance cameras photographed the event.

Crimestoppers thereafter asked the public for help and publicized a picture of the robbery. A telephone tip was then received identifying the Defendant, Vincente Leonor, Jr., as the robber in the photo. This tip was verified by police through interviews of witnesses who knew the Defendant.

On June 26th, the Defendant was arrested at his home for the Subway robbery, and he was charged in federal court for the offense of using violence which affects commerce; and for brandishing a firearm during the robbery.

If convicted of these offenses, the Defendant could receive a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment.

Additionally, if convicted of the gun crime, the Defendant will receive an additional 7 years in jail – that being on top of any sentence he receives for the robbery.

The Defendant's is presently in custody, pending his Detention Hearing which is currently scheduled for this Wednesday, July 5th at 11am, before the Honorable U.S. Magistrate Judge Leslie Kobayashi in Federal Court.

The public is reminded that the Defendant is presumed innocent, unless otherwise proven guilty in a Court of Law.

The prosecutor in this case is Assistant U.S. Attorney Marshall Silverberg, and the Defendant is currently being represented by the Office of the Federal Public Defender.

[SOUND OF JUDGE'S GAVEL]

Now, this second case was just recently completed in federal court after a trial. The case involved the Defendant, James T. Low. Lets review the facts brought out at the trial:

The Defendant has three prior criminal convictions. First, on January 23, 1995, the Defendant was arrested for auto theft. At that time, crystal methamphetamine was found in the waist bag he was wearing. He was later convicted in State Court for Promoting a Dangerous Drug in the 3rd Degree - which is a felony.

On March 1, 1995, the Defendant was again arrested — this time by Daiei Security Officers for theft of store property. At the time of this arrest, the Defendant was again in possession of crystal methamphetamine which was in his hip bag. As a result, he was again convicted in State Court for Promoting a Dangerous Drug in the 3rd Degree - his second felony.

On January 6, 1997, the Defendant was arrested for a third time for shoplifting at Ala Moana Sears. Once again, he was found in possession of crystal methamphetamine, and he was later convicted for a 3rd time in State Court for Promoting a Dangerous Drug in the 3rd Degree.

Now, after having three previous convictions for drugs, we come to this case in federal court. Last year, the Defendant was charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute almost 3,000 grams of crystal meth. In Count 2, he was also charged with knowingly possessing with intent to distribute over 2,800 grams of crystal meth on June 8, 2005.

The facts at trial indicated that the Defendant was the supplier of drugs to others in Hawaii. Based on this investigation, search warrants were executed at the Defendant's two apartments at Algoroba Street and on Ala Moana Blvd.

Pound quantities of crystal meth were recovered by police. Drug paraphernalia were also recovered, along with almost \$200,000 in cash.

After a trial in federal court, the Defendant was found guilty as charged for conspiracy and possession of crystal meth.

Sentencing in this case is now set for October 10, 2006, before the Honorable Senior U.S. District Court Judge Alan C. Kay. Because of the Defendant's criminal history and because of the nature of this case, the maximum sentence that can be imposed upon the Defendant will be life imprisonment.

The U.S. Attorney's Office thanks and recognizes the hard work of the following investigators in this case:

- DEA Special Agent Jerry Lawson
- HPD Federal Task Force Officer Larry Peraulta
- HPD Federal Task Force Officer Joyce Alapa, and
- HPD Federal Task Force Officer Mike Johnson

The prosecutor in this case was Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Inciong, and the Defendant's standby counsel was Richard Kawana, Esq.

Now, we'll return again after this brief Public Safety Announcement from "Project Safe Neighborhoods."

[PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT #2]

*Judge:* The Defendant, having been found guilty is sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. Defendant will be remanded to custody immediately.

*Mother:* On September 15th, my son was sentenced to 10 years in prison for a gun crime. That day, he sentenced me to 10 years of worrying — every single night, if my baby is ok.

*Announcer:* When you commit a gun crime, your family pays the price. Gun Crimes hit home. A public service announcement brought to you by Project Safe Neighborhoods and the Ad Council.