

U.S. Attorney Ed Kubo  
Press Conference  
Kauai Drug Rings Indictments  
October 11, 2007

Just over a month ago, I informed you that a joint investigation on the Island of Kauai, resulted in the arrests of five individuals for marijuana cultivation and trafficking. I also reported to you that the investigation had uncovered one of the largest marijuana cultivation operations in our state.

Today, I report to you that at that same time, we also had another joint State and Federal investigation into methamphetamine trafficking on Kauai.

From May to July of this year, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Kauai Police Department (KPD), with the assistance of other State and Federal law enforcement agencies, obtained evidence on three Methamphetamine Distribution Rings on Kauai through the use of Federal Court-ordered wiretaps on the cell phones of targeted Kauai residents.

As a result of this federal wiretap investigation, over 6 pounds of methamphetamine was seized on Kauai and in Sacramento, CA. In addition, a Federal grand jury has returned three separate indictments against twelve (12) Hawaii residents. Of these twelve defendants, eight reside on Kauai, two reside on Oahu, one resides on Maui, and one resides on the Big Island of Hawaii.

In the first indictment, five Defendants are now charged with conspiracy to distribute, and to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, along with substantive methamphetamine trafficking crimes. They are:

EDWARD C. CACHOLA (age: 41)(Kauai resident)  
DAVID MARCIAL LANE (age: 38)(Kauai resident)  
DESMOND DWIGHT MUNDON (age: 32)(Kauai resident)  
JAMES K. KIKO (age: 36)(Oahu resident)  
SUMMER KEALA EBESU (age: 25)(Kauai resident)

This case involves Defendant Edward Cachola's efforts to acquire methamphetamine through co-defendant David Lane from Oahu, and also through others from Sacramento, CA. Cachola intended to distribute all of his methamphetamine on Kauai with the assistance of the other Hawaii defendants.

As a result of this investigation, law enforcement officers have seized pound quantities of methamphetamine on the island of Kauai and in Sacramento, CA.

If convicted of these offenses, most of the Defendants face a sentence of a mandatory 10 years in jail and up to life imprisonment. However, because Edward Cachola has two prior state felony drug convictions, if convicted, he faces a mandatory life imprisonment sentence.

Defendant David Lane has a prior Federal felony drug conviction and co-defendant James Kiko has a prior state felony drug conviction and therefore, each of them faces an enhanced federal sentence of a mandatory 20 years in jail and up to life imprisonment.

In the second indictment , six Defendants are charged with conspiracy to distribute, and with possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, along with substantive methamphetamine trafficking crimes. They are:

SANTIAGO CORPUZ LEONES, JUNIOR (age: 45)(Kauai resident)  
WILSON BUSQUE LEONES (age: 36)(Hawaii resident)  
WANDA LYNN OSHIRO (age: 41)(Kauai resident)  
LEANN PUALANI FU (age: 43)(Kauai resident)  
BRIAN KEITH CHRZANOWSKI (age: 46)(Oahu resident)  
ZENY MABASA ORDONEZ (age: 30)(Maui resident)

This case involves Defendants Santiago Leones and Wanda Oshiro's effort to obtain methamphetamine through co-defendant Brian Chrzanowski from Oahu, and through co-defendant Wilson Leones from the Philippines.

Santiago Leones and Oshiro were planning to distribute this methamphetamine on Kauai with the assistance of other Hawaii Defendants.

In July (this year), law enforcement officers seized about 94 grams of methamphetamine from Defendant's Ordonez's checked-in suitcase as she traveled from Maui to Kauai to deliver the drugs to Leones. This was the methamphetamine which Wilson Leones had acquired in the Philippines.

If convicted, Defendants Wilson Leones, Fu, and Ordonez face a sentence of a mandatory 10 years in jail and up to life imprisonment, while Defendant Chrzanowski faces a sentence of 20 years incarceration.

Both Santiago Leones and Oshiro have prior state felony drug convictions, and so they will face an enhanced sentence of a mandatory 20 years in jail and up to life imprisonment.

In the third indictment, three Defendants are charged with conspiracy to distribute, and with possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, along with substantive methamphetamine trafficking crimes. They are:

BRIAN KEITH CHRZANOWSKI (same person charged earlier)  
SHEENA GAIL SEMANA (age: 24)(Kauai resident)  
SUMMER KEALA EBESU (same person charged earlier)

This case involves Defendants Chrzanowski and Semana's efforts to bring approximately 2 ounces of methamphetamine from Oahu to Kauai in June this year for the purpose of distributing to Kauai residents.

Chrzanowski was found to be in possession of about 19.0 grams of methamphetamine taped to his crotch after arriving on Kauai. The remainder of the methamphetamine was recovered from Defendant Summer Ebesu shortly after co-defendant Semana give it to her for temporary safekeeping.

If convicted, Chrzanowski and Ebesu face a sentence of a mandatory 5 years in jail and up to 40 years. Because of her prior felony drug conviction, Semana faces an enhanced sentence of 10 years -

mandatory jail and up to life imprisonment.

Semana is currently imprisoned at Kauai Community Correctional Custody Center, serving a state sentence recently imposed last month.

The following law enforcement agencies participated in this investigation:

Drug Enforcement Administration  
Kauai Police Department  
Immigration & Customs Enforcement  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, and  
Postal Inspection Service

These agencies were also assisted by the following agencies:

Internal Revenue Service  
U.S. Marshals Service  
Honolulu Police Department  
Maui Police Department  
State of Hawaii Sheriff's Department  
Federal Protective Service, and  
U.S. Coast Guard (provided transportation to/from Kauai)

And, I would like to congratulate each of you for the hard work of your investigators, and for a job well done in this important case to the people living on the Island of Kauai.

Chief Perry. Hawaii's law enforcement community has made a pledge to aggressively fight drug trafficking on every island in this state. I welcome you back to our law enforcement community, and I know that your presence and leadership on that Island will greatly benefit the people living there. We will continue to support and assist you in making Kauai a safer place to live and to visit.

Anyone who dares to import drugs into this state, or to distribute this poison to our citizens will have a day of reckoning coming. You will be caught, and you will pay the consequences with a lengthy prison term at a Federal Penitentiary on the mainland.

These Defendants are currently at the Federal Detention Center. Their first court appearance will be today at 3pm at the Federal Detention Center.

This case is ongoing and I expect there will be more charges to be filed in the near future.

These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael Kawahara, and in the future, he will make himself available to you for comment on this on-going case.