

“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 OF POLICE SIREN]

Last Friday, July 14th, a federal criminal complaint was filed against Carlo Ascencio, age 29.

Count one of the complaint charged the Defendant with willfully and maliciously breaking into letter boxes located at the Wahiawa U.S. Post Office on July 9th. Count two charged him with stealing mail from those letter boxes.

According to the filed complaint, on July 9th, Postal Inspectors were notified that several mail boxes at the Wahiawa Post Office had been broken into.

Security photographs from the Post Office, showed an individual breaking into the mail boxes and taking mail.

These photographs were then shown to a Wahiawa Police Detective who tentatively identified the Defendant as the person in the photos.

On July 13th, the Defendant was arrested by the police for a state traffic warrant. After his arrest, a Postal Inspector talked to the Defendant about the mail box break-ins.

The Defendant admitted that he was the person who had burglarized the Wahiawa Post Office boxes — and that he thereafter gave the stolen mail to a friend, who then opened up the mail — looking for valuable material inside each letter.

This past Friday, a detention hearing was held before Magistrate Judge Leslie Kobayashi. At that hearing, the Defendant was released on an unsecured bond with conditions that he reside at Mahoney Hale, a halfway house, and that he be subject to the directions of his Pretrial Service Officer.

If convicted of the Breaking Into Mail Boxes charge, the maximum sentence the Defendant could receive will be three years in jail. Additionally, if convicted of the Theft of Mail count, the maximum sentence the Defendant could receive will be five years in jail.

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

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

[SOUND OF JUDGE'S GAVEL]

Now, this second Defendant just recently pled guilty in federal court.

On June 15th, the Defendant Tee Osoimalo, age 42, pled guilty in Federal Court to the charge of Assaulting a Flight Attendant. The charge resulted from an incident on board Hawaiian Airlines Flight 465, on June 1st. At that time the plane was enroute from Honolulu, Hawaii to Pago Pago, Samoa.

According to the Complaint filed in this case, right after the Hawaiian flight departed from Honolulu, the victim-flight attendant gave out to the passengers - a Samoan immigration and customs declaration document which is required under their law.

The Defendant, who was a passenger on the flight, told the flight attendant that a family member flying with him would complete the documents for the family. However, shortly thereafter, the Defendant left his seat and approached the victim, who was standing in the aisle. He confronted the flight attendant and was seen shoving the victim.

In a loud voice, Osoimalu was heard saying, "Do you want to die? I will kill you!"

Due to this violent outburst by the Defendant and the disruption it caused during the flight, the pilot decided to turn the plane around and return to Honolulu International Airport in order to avoid any further violence on the plane.

Upon arriving in Honolulu, the Defendant was taken off of the plane and arrested for the assault on the flight attendant.

As I said, the Defendant has pled guilty to the charge of assault on an aircraft, and he is scheduled to be sentenced on Friday, July 28th before Magistrate Judge Leslie Kobayashi. At that time, the Defendant may be sentenced to up to six months in jail.

The prosecutor in this case is Assistant U.S. Attorney Darren Ching, and the defense attorney is Deputy Federal Public Defender Loretta Faymonville.

The last case to report is a federal sentence in a narcotic trafficking case.

[SOUND OF SLAMMING CELL DOOR]

On July 7th, U.S. District Court Chief Judge Helen Gillmor sentenced Gordon Lee Cox II, age 39, to 20 years imprisonment for possessing with the intent of distributing crystal methamphetamine or ICE, and two counts of money laundering.

In February of last year (2005), the Defendant was arrested by investigators. At that time, police recovered over 760 grams of ICE, and over a million dollars in cash. Two of the Defendant's cars were also seized.

All of the above evidence seized in this case has been forfeited to the United States because it related to a drug trafficking crime.

We would like to acknowledge the great work of the DEA-Honolulu, the Honolulu Police Department, and the Hawaii High Drug Trafficking Area Group (also known as "HIDTA"), for their investigation of this successful case.

The prosecutor in this case was Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Kawahara.

Now, we'll return again after this brief Public Service Announcement from the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Ad Council on positive mentoring.

[PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT #2]

Female Youth: "When I do it, I feel the blood rushing through me. And, I keep going back for more."

Announcer: "Carmen Castio is under the influence . . . of Dana, her volunteer trainer. By spending just one day a week with kids like Carmen, Dana helps them develop interests that keeps them away from drugs. Be a coach, a mentor, a volunteer — because you have something to offer. Log on to helpyourcommunity.org or call 877-KIDS 313. Brought to you by the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Ad Council."