



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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NUISANCE ABATEMENT ACTION FILED AGAINST ALLEGED BIG ISLAND DRUG HOUSE

HONOLULU - The Department of the Attorney General's Drug Nuisance Abatement Unit has filed its first Big Island nuisance abatement action. The complaint filed on February 11, 2005 alleges that drugs have been manufactured at and distributed from a residence on Oahu Road in Pahoia. The action seeks a court order to prohibit four individuals from residing at or entering the residence. After all four of the defendants have been served with the complaint, they will have twenty days to respond to the allegations.

The State also filed an Ex Parte Petition for a Temporary Writ of Injunction to prohibit the four defendants from residing at or entering the Oahu Road residence. Judge Greg Nakamura signed an order temporarily ordering the defendants to vacate the Oahu Road residence and prohibiting them from returning there. The State will ask the court to extend the prohibition at a hearing on February 18, 2005.

Special Agents of the Department of the Attorney General, together with Hawaii County police officers, served the complaint and order on three of the defendants -- Debra Jean Lani, Donna M. Tarape, and Lionel Tarape -- on February 11, 2005. The defendants were required to vacate the house, pursuant to the court order, pending the February 18, 2005 hearing.

A resident of the Pahoia neighborhood had informed the Nuisance Abatement Unit of suspected drug activity at the Oahu Road residence. The Hawaii County Police Department Ice Task Force executed three search warrants at the residence between October 8, 2003 and September 10, 2004, and recovered evidence of drugs and drug paraphernalia.

The closing down of the alleged drug house was accomplished through the cooperation and efforts of the Department of the Attorney General, the Hawaii County Police Department Ice Task Force, and the Hawaii County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

First Deputy Attorney General Lisa M. Ginoza said: "We expect this abatement action to bring some relief to the Pahoia community. The Department of the Attorney General is committed to working with communities and other law enforcement agencies to continue closing drug houses statewide." Ginoza also encouraged the public to report their observations regarding suspected drug houses to the police, or to contact the Attorney General's Drug Nuisance Abatement Unit at the following

hotline numbers:

Oahu: (808) 586-1328

Neighbor Islands toll free: (800) 9NO-METH (966-6384)

Fax: (808) 586-1371

E-mail: stopice@hawaii.gov

The public may also file a report with the Drug Nuisance Abatement Unit by logging on to www.hawaii.gov/ag/stop_ice_index.htm.

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