



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General  
Phone: (808) 586-1500  
Fax: (808) 586-1239

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**Former Senior Probation Officer Sentenced**

(HONOLULU) Former senior probation officer Freddie Esperanza was sentenced today on one count of Theft in the First Degree. Esperanza was placed on probation for a period of five years and ordered to serve ninety days in jail. He was also ordered to pay the State \$21,300 in restitution. Judge Derrick H.M. Chan denied Esperanza's motion for a deferral of his guilty plea.

During the period of October 1993 and November 2002, while working as a senior probation officer on Oahu, Esperanza misappropriated funds from the State by having the probationers that he oversaw pay their court-ordered fines and restitution directly to him in cash. Esperanza then kept the money instead of turning it over to the court.

An audit determined that Esperanza had stolen at least \$23,800. The Department of Accounting and General Services has received \$2,500 in restitution from Esperanza, leaving a remaining balance of \$21,300.

Theft in the First Degree is a class B felony punishable by up to ten years in prison and a fine of \$25,000.

Attorney General Mark Bennett said, "I hope this sends a clear message that the State will not tolerate the abuse of positions of trust."

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For more information, contact:

Mark K. Miyahira  
Deputy Attorney General  
Criminal Justice Division  
(808) 586-1160  
[hawaiiag@hawaii.gov](mailto:hawaiiag@hawaii.gov)  
[www.hawaii.gov/ag](http://www.hawaii.gov/ag)