



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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**Attorney General issues formal opinion
on Governor's veto proclamations**

(HONOLULU) Attorney General Mark Bennett has issued a formal opinion that five veto proclamations issued by Governor Lingle on June 27, 2005 satisfied the requirements of Hawaii's Constitution.

The Governor issued five proclamations that contained a clerical error in that the final sentence of each proclamation contained an incorrect bill number. Each proclamation contained the correct bill title, and the correct bill number was cited in two other places within each proclamation. In the transmittal letter to the Legislature that accompanied the proclamations, the Governor indicated that she intended to return the bills with her objections.

The Attorney General found that the proclamations were so clear in their intent and meaning that they gave the Legislature unequivocal notice of the Governor's intent to return the five bills for the Legislature's further consideration. "The proclamations fully satisfied state constitutional requirements, and therefore preserved the Governor's ability to validly veto the bills," Bennett said.

The opinion is posted on the Attorney General's web site at <http://www.hawaii.gov/ag/opinions.htm>.

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