



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General
Phone: (808) 586-1282
Fax: (808) 586-1239

For Immediate Release: October 13, 2003 News Release No. 2003-47

FORMER YOUTH CORRECTIONS OFFICER TO BE ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OF AN UNDERAGE GIRL AND OTHER RELATED CHARGES

HONOLULU - Attorney General Mark Bennett announced today that former Youth Corrections Officer Li'a Olione was arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation yesterday in American Samoa on a charge of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. It is expected that Olione will be arrested on State charges sometime after his hearing in federal court today at 3:00 P.M. Olione's state charges are based on his September 16, 2003 indictment by an Oahu grand jury. Attorney General Bennett expressed his thanks to the federal authorities for their cooperation in this case. He noted that Olione's arrest by the F.B.I. in Samoa, and the F.B.I.'s transportation of Olione back to Hawaii has made the expeditious prosecution of Olione in Hawaii possible.

The Oahu grand jury indictment contains allegations that Olione, while he was employed in a state correctional facility, perpetrated multiple serious felonies against an incarcerated girl who was under the age of consent. The indictment charges three counts of Sexual Assault in the First Degree, three counts of Kidnapping, and one count each of Sexual Assault in the Third Degree, Terroristic Threatening in the First Degree, Extortion in the Second Degree, and Criminal Solicitation. The indictment alleges that, subsequent to the initial sexual assault and kidnapping, Olione threatened the incarcerated girl for the purpose of deterring her from reporting his sexual behavior, and alleges that he restrained her twice for the purpose of terrorizing her. The indictment is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless he is proven guilty.

###

For more information, contact:
Office of the Attorney General
Phone: (808) 586-1500

For detailed information, contact:
Kurt W. Spohn,
Deputy Attorney General,
Telephone: (808) 586-1160