



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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PEARL CITY MAN ARRESTED FOR ELECTRONIC ENTICEMENT OF A CHILD

HONOLULU-Attorney General Mark Bennett and Honolulu Police Department Deputy Chief Paul Putzulu announced today that law enforcement agents of the Hawaii Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (HICACTF), including the Department of the Attorney General, the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, arrested a 19-year-old Pearl City man, Thomas Puckett, for two offenses of Electronic Enticement of a Child in the First Degree. The arrest was the result of ongoing HICACTF investigation efforts to intercept Internet solicitations of children for sexual activity.

In this particular case, the suspect asked HPD detectives, whom he thought were two 13-year-old girls, to meet him at Manoa Marketplace, where he would pick them up and take them to a hotel room to have sex. He was arrested by police detectives shortly after he arrived at the designated meeting place.

Because of the serious nature of this offense that targets children as victims, the HPD and Attorney General ask parents and young people to be mindful of the potential for abuse of the Internet. To aid parents and young people in recognizing the dangers of the Internet and to help them take protective measures, HICACTF has created a web site at www.hicac.com. The web site contains Internet safety tips and provides information on how to report any suspected illegal Internet activity that targets children.

Anyone having information concerning possible Internet crimes against children should call investigators at 808 586-1240.

An arrest is merely an accusation and the arrestee is presumed innocent until and unless he is proven guilty.

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