



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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**MAUI MAN FOUND GUILTY OF ELECTRONIC ENTICEMENT OF A CHILD
IN THE FIRST DEGREE**

HONOLULU-Attorney General Mark J. Bennett announced that on October 8, 2007 Earnest Luther Roberts, aka "er695", was found guilty by a Honolulu jury of Electronic Enticement of a Child in the First Degree. Sentencing is set for December 28, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. before the Honorable Jennifer L. Ching. Bail remains at \$50,000 pending sentencing.

Mr. Roberts faces a maximum sentence of ten years in prison and under a new sentencing law passed in July 2006, a minimum sentence of five years probation with a one year prison term as a condition of probation. He must also register as a sex offender. The jury deliberated for just over three hours, beginning late Friday and returning with a guilty verdict around 11:30 a.m. today.

The investigation of Mr. Roberts involved law enforcement agents of the Hawaii Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (HICACTF), including the Honolulu Police Department, and the Department of the Attorney General. The case was prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Albert Cook.

This is the first case to go before a Honolulu jury under the new sentencing law and the second trial for Electronic Enticement of a Child in the State of Hawaii, the first being State v. Robert John McKnight Jr., aka "atropical_knight" in which a Maui jury found Mr. McKnight guilty. His sentencing in Maui is set November 14, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. before the Honorable Joel E. August.

Because of the serious nature of this offense that targets children as victims, the Honolulu Police Department and the 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

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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.

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