



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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FREE KEIKI IDENTIFICATION KITS

HONOLULU –The Department of the Attorney General's Missing Child Center-Hawaii will be providing FREE Keiki Identification Kits for children up to age 18 on Sunday, May 21, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Kahala Mall, center stage area. The Kit will include a current photo; a complete set of fingerprints; a current description of the child, including height, weight, and other vital information; a DNA hair sample; and dental information. This Kit is a single document and a very valuable tool that parents can take home and use to identify a missing child when an emergency arises. Volunteers will be on hand to weigh, measure, photograph, and fingerprint our keiki, and dentists will be available to help complete an optional dental chart for each child. This event is being held to commemorate the annual National Missing Children's Day.

The *Hawaii Dental Association* will be aiding in this event by providing dentists and dental supplies. *Dr. Glenn Kaneda DDS, Dr. Chad Kawashima DDS, Dr. Brian Kim DDS, Dr. Ross Masunaga DDS, Dr. Russell Masunaga DDS, Dr. Randal Motooka DDS, Dr. William Sato DDS, and Dr. Chris Yamada DDS* will donate their time for this event, offering exams for the dental portion of the Keiki Identification Kits. *Director of Operations, Kim Koga* will be organizing staff assistance. *Dr. Nina Yonemura-Hayashi DDS* will also be contributing by providing the dental supplies. Personnel from the Department of the Attorney General's Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division, and Internet Crimes Against Children Unit will provide information on crime prevention and safety tips. McGruff the Crime Dog will meet and greet the children. Mrs. Hawaii International 2006 Rebecca Farnes, Miss Hawaii USA 2003 Alicia Michioka-Jones, Mrs. Hawaii 2006 Peblz Nakamoto, and Miss Hawaii International 2006 Amber Stone will be helping in the event. The Department of the Attorney General's Missing Child Center-Hawaii, the Friends of the Missing Child Center-Hawaii, and AAA Bail Bonds are providing the funding for this event.

The Missing Child Center–Hawaii operates as a Hawaii response center for missing children and is administered through the Department of the Attorney General. The Missing Child Center-Hawaii works with state and national law enforcement agencies to coordinate efforts in tracking missing children and their abductors. The agency is linked to all county police departments in the State, the FBI, all mainland U.S. police agencies and missing child clearinghouses, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the U.S. State

Department and national as well as state databases to enable tracking of abductors and/or missing children.

National Missing Children's Day is commemorated every year on May 25. Former President Ronald Regan proclaimed the first National Missing Children's Day in 1983. Since then, every administration has honored this annual reminder to the nation to renew efforts to reunite missing children with their families, and to make child protection a national priority.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) reports that more than 2,000 children are reported missing every day. 1 in 6 recoveries is a direct result of a lead generated by a missing child's photograph. Parents can play an important role in the quick recovery of a missing child by making sure they always have a current photo of their children. Having a good-quality, current photo of a missing child is essential to assist law enforcement in the critical first hours of an investigation. According to a recent survey conducted by Duracell and NCMEC, only 46 percent of parents or guardians surveyed believe that having a recent photo of a child for emergency purposes is important. Additionally, only 49 percent of parents or guardians who have an emergency photo of their child update it every six months – the timeframe recommended by experts.

Power of Parents:

In addition to securing a Keiki Identification Kit, parents can also play an important role in the prevention of child abduction by talking with their children. NCMEC offers important points parents should know when talking to a child about safety:

- Don't forget to talk with your older children. Children age 11 to 17 are equally at risk of victimization. While giving your older children more freedom, make sure they understand important safety rules as well.
- Speak to your children in a calm, non-threatening manner. Children do not need to be frightened to get the point across. Fear can be counter-productive as well as paralyzing to a child.
- Speak openly about safety issues. If they feel that you are comfortable discussing the subject matter, they may be more likely to come to you.
- Do not confuse children with the concept of "strangers." Children do not have the same understanding of who a stranger is as an adult might. The "stranger-danger" message is not effective, as danger to children is much greater from someone you or they know than from a "stranger."
- Practice what you talk about. You may think your children understand your message, but until they can incorporate it into their daily lives, it may not be clearly understood. Find opportunities to practice "what if" scenarios.
- Teach your children that it is more important to get out of a threatening situation, than it is to be polite. It is okay to tell you what happened, and they won't be tattletales.

Parents can help by joining with the Missing Child Center-Hawaii in this Keiki ID event and by talking with their children about safety. For more information about this event or the Missing Child Center-Hawaii, call 586-1449. After hours, call the emergency hotline 753-9797 or contact us via email: hawaiimissingkids@hawaii.gov. The website address is www.missingchildcenterhawaii.com. The Missing Child Center-Hawaii is located at 425 Queen Street, Honolulu, HI 96813.

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