



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO M.D.
DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 586-4410
Fax: (808) 586-4444

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DOH CITES VERN'S TOWING FOR SOLID WASTE VIOLATIONS

HONOLULU -- The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) has filed a notice and finding of violation and order against Vern's Towing II (Vern's) for storing too many vehicles at its facility located at 169 Railroad Ave, Hilo, Hawai'i. This places Vern's in violation of its Solid Waste Management Permit.

The DOH issued a warning letter to the facility in April 2007. Vern's failed to comply with the warning letter. In July 2007, Vern's had even more vehicles on its site. The DOH has imposed a penalty of \$1,287 and ordered Vern's to take corrective action. The penalty takes into account the extent of deviation from the law and the potential for harm. Although the manner in which the waste vehicles are currently stored at the site poses a relatively low likelihood of exposure to solid waste or related contaminants to humans or the environment, the number of vehicles stored there exceeds permit requirements creating a potential risk.

The DOH Solid Waste Section regulates standards governing the design, construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of solid waste disposal, recycling, reclamation, and transfer systems. Such standards are intended to: prevent pollution of the drinking water supply or waters of the state; prevent air pollution; prevent the spread of disease and the creation of nuisances; protect the public health and safety; conserve natural resources; and preserve and enhance the beauty and quality of the environment. Vern's may request a hearing to contest the allegations or order.

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For more information, contact:
Lene Ichinotsubo
Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch
Phone: (808) 586-4226