DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General
Phone: (808) 586-1500
Fax: (808) 586-1239

For Immediate Release: February 3, 2005 News Release No. 2005-02

ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORTS CRIME IN HAWAII DOWN 10.2% IN FIRST HALF OF 2004

Honolulu, Hawaii – The Department of the Attorney General's semi-annual Uniform Crime Report shows that the number of Index Crimes reported in Hawaii for the first six months of 2004 decreased 10.2% from the figure reported for the first half of 2003. The number of violent Index Crimes (murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) decreased 12.6%, while property Index Crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft) fell 10.1%. Net decreases in violent, property, and total Index Crimes were reported by all four of Hawaii's counties.

The number of murders reported statewide for the first half of 2004 increased 45.5%, up from 11 in 2003 to 16 in 2004. *(Note small base numbers, and that a record low murder tally was reported in 2003.)* Forcible rapes decreased 7.3%, robberies plunged 42.5%, and aggravated assaults rose 7.3%.

The number of property Index Crimes reported in Hawaii for the first six months of 2004 decreased for all three offenses: 7.6% for burglary, 11.5% for larceny-theft, and 6.8% for motor vehicle theft.

The net decreases in violent, property, and total Index Crimes during the first half of 2004 totaled 12.8%, 9.1%, and 9.3%, respectively, for the City & County of Honolulu; 15.4%, 16.9%, and 16.9% for Hawaii County; 9.4%, 11.2%, and 11.2% for Maui County; and 12.1%, 6.7%, and 7.1% for Kauai County.

Statewide Index Crime arrests decreased 17.3% for adults and 3.5% for juveniles in the first half of 2004. Juvenile Index Crime arrests, which provide the best available measure of the extent of serious juvenile crime in Hawaii, set six consecutive annual record lows starting in 1998 and are on pace to extend the trend to seven years once complete 2004 data are available.

Statewide drug arrests decreased 3.2% during the first half of 2004, although arrests for the "Non-Narcotics" drug category, which includes crystal methamphetamine, increased 18.8%. The increase in this category is attributable to increases reported by Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai Counties, which were partially offset by a decrease reported by the City & County of Honolulu.

Copies of the report can be downloaded from the Crime Prevention & Justice Assistance Division's web site at <cpja.ag.state.hi.us>.

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For more information, contact:
Paul Perrone
Chief of Research & Statistics
Phone: (808) 586-1420
Email: paul.a.perrone@hawaii.gov

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