



FBI HONOLULU

2024 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW



MAUI



SAIPAN



HAWAI'I ISLAND



O'AHU



GUAM



This is a publication of the FBI Honolulu Public Affairs Office

91-1300 Enterprise Avenue
Kapolei, HI 96707

Cover Images: Top: Honolulu Division Headquarters (photo: FBI Honolulu); Middle left: Haleakalā, Maui (photo: FBI Honolulu); Middle center: Bird Island, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (photo: Tomas Abel); Middle right: Lava fields of Hawai'i Island, also known as the "Big Island" (photo: FBI Honolulu); Bottom left: Ko'olau mountain range, O'ahu (photo: FBI Honolulu); Bottom right: Beach view, Guam (photo: Tomas Abel)

FBI Honolulu



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FBI EMPLOYEE OATH

All FBI employees take this oath when they join the Bureau.



"I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

LETTER FROM THE SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

Aloha,

I am pleased to present the inaugural issue of our FBI Honolulu Year in Review, which highlights the excellent work of our employees throughout Fiscal Year 2024. FBI Honolulu Division consists of five locations throughout Hawaii and the Pacific. As Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Honolulu Field Office, I am proud of the outstanding dedication and professionalism that is displayed by our staff every day.

While the FBI is a federal agency, we are also your neighbors who live in the very communities we serve. FBI Honolulu faces unique challenges due to our remote island location, but our 'ohana continues to meet these challenges with the excellent work they do every day. Whether working in an administrative, forensic, intelligence, or operational function, or in the field or in the office, each employee plays a vital role in achieving our mission.

This Year in Review provides an overview of how we served Hawaii, Guam, Saipan, and American Samoa during Fiscal Year 2024. The FBI partners with the greatest local, state, and federal agencies in the U.S., in addition to the partnerships we have with the public we serve. We are pleased to share a few highlights of these partnerships, our casework, and community outreach efforts in this publication. Of course, the work in supporting the FBI mission is ongoing, so there are many other important cases that we cannot share here.

We thank you for your support and for doing your part to ensure that our communities are a safe place to live, work, and visit.

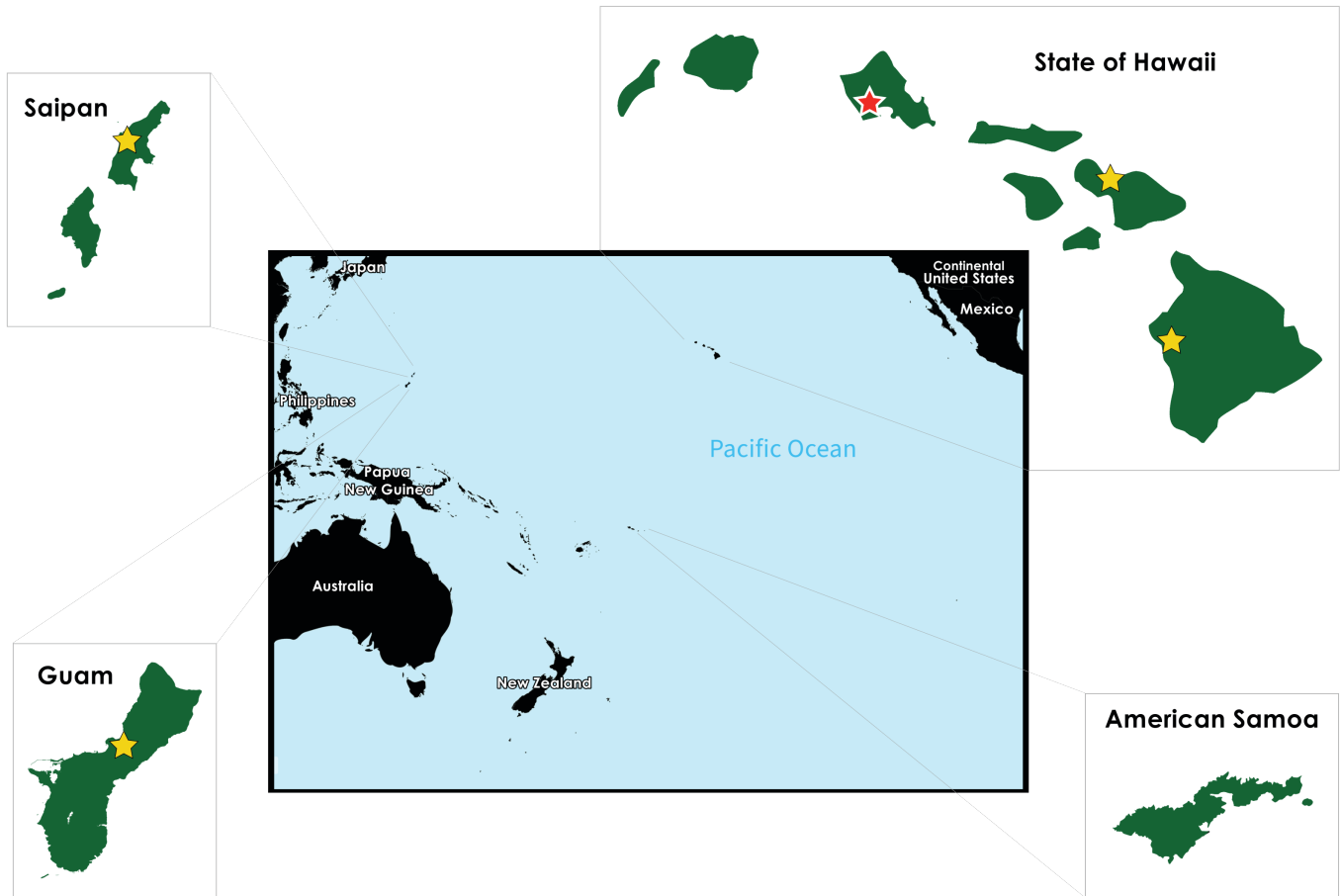
Steven Merrill

Special Agent in Charge
FBI Honolulu



OVERVIEW OF FBI HONOLULU DIVISION

The area of responsibility (AOR) for FBI Honolulu includes the State of Hawaii, Guam, Saipan, and American Samoa. Division headquarters is located in Kapolei, Hawaii, with additional resident agencies (satellite offices) are located on Maui, Hawaii Island (also known as "the Big Island"), Guam, and Saipan.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Media, authors & podcasters - contact for media inquiries or interview requests

honolulu_fbi_pao@fbi.gov



SUBMIT A TIP

Report a crime anonymously

tips.fbi.gov

1-800-CALL-FBI

For internet-based fraud, report to

[IC3.gov](https://ic3.gov)



FIND US ON THE WEB

<https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/honolulu>



FOLLOW US

[@FBIHonolulu](https://twitter.com/FBIHonolulu)



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Public & students - contact for outreach events, school events, or to attend a Citizens Academy

hn_communityoutreach@fbi.gov



WORK WITH US

Learn about the hundreds of career paths available!

fbijobs.gov

HonoluluApplicants@fbi.gov



FBI JOBS

CASE HIGHLIGHTS

As a general Department of Justice policy, the FBI does not confirm or deny the existence of an investigation until the subject(s) is arrested, the case is charged, and the defendant makes their first appearance in court. This not only allows us to protect the integrity of the case, but also to safeguard the privacy and civil rights of subjects (who are presumed innocent until proven guilty), witnesses, and victims. This is a responsibility we do not take lightly: balancing the public's right to know with the integrity of the case and individual rights. There are exceptions where the FBI may release some information. For example, the FBI may provide information when asking for the public's help in finding a missing person (or fugitive) or are seeking information about a subject's identity (see *Investigative Publicity* on page 9).

The public may be aware of law enforcement activities within their neighborhoods or places of business. However, we often cannot provide additional details beyond confirming court-authorized law enforcement activity or assuring the public that there is no threat to public safety. We may also assist a partner agency when requested or when the FBI has a tool, tactic, or technique that could benefit their investigations. Even though we cannot discuss investigations until after they have been unsealed or charged, work is happening behind the scenes to gather evidence needed for a successful prosecution.

FBI Honolulu cases cover a variety of federal criminal violations, such as white-collar crime, violent crime, and national security matters including terrorism, counterintelligence, and cyber crimes. Our investigations become public record through court documents filed by the [United States Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii](#) or the [United States Attorney's Office for the District of Guam](#). For federal court records, visit the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) website. The following pages provide a sampling of FBI Honolulu's casework in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024), which covers October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024.

For all press releases involving FBI cases, visit: <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/honolulu/news>.

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

[Former CIA Officer Sentenced to Ten Years in Federal Prison for Conspiracy to Commit Espionage](#)

September 11, 2024

Honolulu – Alexander Yuk Ching Ma, 71, of Honolulu, a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officer, was sentenced for conspiring to gather and deliver national defense information to the People's Republic of China (PRC). Ma and a co-conspirator both worked for the CIA and had access to sensitive and classified U.S. national defense information and classified identities of at least two individuals. They later provided this information to PRC's Shanghai State Security Bureau (SSSB) over a period of several years. He pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

COUNTERTERRORISM

[Maui Man Arrested in Connection with IED](#)

August 13, 2024

Honolulu – Robert Francis Dumaran, 47, of Kahului, Maui, was arrested for possessing an unregistered destructive device and attempting to damage property by means of explosives. The complaint and affidavit allege that on July 23, 2024, Maui Police Department (MPD) officers encountered an improvised explosive device (IED) in the roadway by Kahului Elementary School. If indicted and convicted of the charged offenses, Dumaran could face up to ten years in prison on the unregistered destructive device charge and a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison, and up to 20 years on the explosives charge.



FBI Honolulu sent a public safety notice seeking information on explosive devices

Second Maui Man Arrested in Connection with IED

September 20, 2024

Honolulu – Jess Kiesel Lee, 43, of Kula, Maui, was arrested for possessing explosives as a felon and damaging property by means of explosives. The complaint and affidavit allege that on August 7, 2024, Maui Police Department (MPD) officers encountered multiple improvised explosive devices (IEDs) near Kaamana Street in Kula. One of the IEDs, which had been exploded before MPD arrived, contained a mixture of compounds consistent with the remnants of explosive powder. If indicted and convicted of the charged offenses, the defendant would face up to ten years in prison on the felon in possession of explosives charge and a mandatory minimum sentence of at least five years in prison, and up to 20 years in prison on the property damage charge.

Oahu Man Sentenced to 70 Months in Prison for Emailing Bomb Threats

September 11, 2024

Honolulu – Bryan Brandenburg, 65, of Oahu, was sentenced for sending email threats to bomb buildings in Utah, California, and across the United States in May 2022. As a result of Brandenburg's threats, the Utah State Court initiated extensive security measures, and the University of Utah Police Department diverted nearly all police officers to the Center for Medical Innovation and evacuated multiple buildings. Ultimately, no bombing devices were found. Brandenburg was sentenced to 70 months in prison.

Hilo Man Arrested for Child Pornography Violation

December 18, 2023

Honolulu – Kalana Limkin, age 18, of Hilo, was arrested for violating child pornography law. The complaint and affidavit allege that Limkin was identified as the founder of a group, "Cultist", which focused on specific behaviors, such as promoting child pornography, child exploitation, sexual extortion, and trafficking and self-harm of minors. Limkin allegedly uploaded multiple child pornography image files. If indicted and convicted of the offense in the complaint, the defendant would face a mandatory minimum term of five years and up to 20 years in prison.

CYBERSTALKING

Colorado Man is Sentenced to 97 Months for Cyberstalking Three Individuals in Hawaii and Obstructing Justice

September 9, 2024

Honolulu – John Hart, 54, of Louisville was sentenced for cyberstalking and obstruction. From May to August 2022, Hart was living in Hawaii when he engaged in a cyberstalking campaign to harass and intimidate his former girlfriend and her former partner. Hart used multiple "burner apps" to message his victims from fake phone numbers. Hart also vandalized the victim's property and made threats to kidnap, kill, rape, and otherwise injure the victim. He was sentenced to 97 months in prison.

DRUG AND GUN CRIMES

Six Arrested for Conspiracy and Operation of An Illegal Cockfighting Gambling Business

November 15, 2023

Honolulu – Edward Caspino, 46, William Caspino, 48, Lavern Joseph, 71, Kerilyn Keliinoi, 31, and Howard Unebasami, 80, of Waianae, along with Fauston Aragon, Jr., 65, of Pearl City, were arrested on a four-count indictment. Charges included illegal gambling related to large-scale chicken fights and illegal game rooms, and distribution of methamphetamine. If convicted, each defendant faces a term of imprisonment of up to five years and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Former Correctional Officer Receives 42 Months in Prison for Smuggling Drugs into Oahu Community Correctional Center

December 13, 2023

Honolulu – Richard Ascencio, 52, of Wahiawa, Hawaii, was sentenced for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine and possessing methamphetamine with the intent to distribute. Ascencio worked as a correctional officer at the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) from 2000 until his arrest in 2020, during which time he used his position as a correctional officer to attempt to bypass security measures and smuggle the methamphetamine into OCCC. Ascencio pled guilty to the charges and was sentenced to 42 months in prison.



Drugs seized during the execution of a search warrant in FY 2024

[Drug Boss Melvin Naputi Sentenced to 360 Months Federal Prison for Trafficking Methamphetamine and Felon in Possession of a Firearm](#)

January 30, 2024

Hagåtña, Guam – Melvin John Salas Naputi, 51, of Guam, was sentenced for attempted possession with intent to deliver fifty or more grams of methamphetamine and felon in possession of a firearm. Naputi had used the United States Postal Service to receive the drugs and was found in possession of approximately 7 ½ lbs of methamphetamine and over \$219,000 in cash. Naputi was sentenced 30 years in prison.

[Man Charged with Murder in Relation to Methamphetamine Trafficking](#)

May 16, 2024

Honolulu – Filimone Tavake, 36, of San Francisco, allegedly killed a Hawaii resident at the victim's home in connection to a drug distribution conspiracy. Tavake was arrested in March 2024 in California, and is charged with carry, use and discharge of a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime; causing the death of a person through use of a firearm; killing while engaged in conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine; and conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. If convicted, Tavake faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison.

ORGANIZED CRIME

[Kailua Man Found Guilty of Racketeering Conspiracy, Murder, and 11 Related Charges](#)

July 24, 2024

Honolulu – Michael J. Miske, Jr., 50, of Kailua, Oahu, was found guilty of racketeering conspiracy, murder, and 11 other felony charges on July 18, 2024 after a 99-day jury trial. After approximately one-and-a-half days of proceedings, the same jury determined that as a result of the conviction of racketeering conspiracy, Miske must forfeit specifically identified property, which included two pieces of real property and \$611,123.60 in proceeds from the sale of real property, a Boston Whaler vessel, a fishing vessel, a 2017 Ferrari, \$2,521,784.32 in cash from various financial institution accounts, and a cashier's check for \$1,162,826.76. According to the evidence presented at trial, during at least the late 1990s and through June 2020, Miske and other codefendants conspired to conduct and participate a racketeering enterprise, the "Miske Enterprise," through a pattern of racketeering activity, including murder, kidnapping, and robbery. It also included acts relating to murder-for-hire, chemical weapons, interference with commerce through robbery and extortion, wire fraud, fraud in connection with identification documents, financial institution fraud, the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act, and obstruction of justice. Ten other defendants originally charged with Miske, and several others charged in other cases related to this one, previously pled guilty to various offenses. Miske passed away in prison while awaiting sentencing.

VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

[Former Oahu Schoolteacher Sentenced to 17.5 Years in Prison for Producing Child Pornography](#)

January 17, 2024

Honolulu – Alden Bunag, 35, of Honolulu, was sentenced for production of child sexual abuse material (CSAM). Bunag was arrested in June 2022 at an Oahu high school where he was working as a summer schoolteacher, where he engaged in repeated sexual activity with student, recorded the sexual activity, and shared it with others. Bunag was in possession of thousands of CSAM images at the time of his arrest. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 210 months in prison. Bunag is required to register as a sex offender and pay victims \$30,000 in restitution.

Oahu Man Sentenced to 40 Years in Prison for Sexual Exploitation of a Child

February 8, 2024

Honolulu – Kalani Kaaiawaawa, 24, of Honolulu, was sentenced for two counts of sexual exploitation of a child and one count of possession of CSAM. Kaaiawaawa repeatedly sexually assaulted a young child and video-recorded the assaults. Kaaiawaawa was in possession of over 100,000 CSAM images and videos at the time of his arrest, which he had shared with others. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison, and was ordered to pay \$33,000 in restitution to victims.

Oahu Man Sentenced to Forty Years in Prison for Producing Child Pornography

February 29, 2024

Honolulu – Daniel Brito, 33, of Honolulu, was sentenced for production of CSAM. At the time of the offenses in the federal case, Brito was on state probation and registered as a sex offender due to a prior State of Hawaii conviction for sexual assault of a minor relative. Brito communicated on social media with at least four minor females, and solicited them to send him sexually explicit images and videos of themselves. Brito also possessed thousands of images which were discovered in his possession at the time of arrest. Brito pleaded guilty to the CSAM production offense and was sentenced to 40 years in prison and ordered to pay the identified minor victims \$3,000 each in restitution.

Guam Man Sentenced to 120 Months in Federal Prison for Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Material

April 17, 2024

Hagåtña, Guam – Jason Solatario Brown, 48, of Yigo, Guam was sentenced for possession of CSAM, including 28 videos and images. The images depicted adult males engaging in sexually explicit conduct with young boys, which were shared with another person who requested them on the Facebook messenger app. Brown was sentenced to 120 months in prison, five years of supervised release, and must register as a sex offender.

Oahu Man Sentenced to 188 Months in Prison for Distributing Child Pornography

July 11, 2024

Honolulu – Casey Young, 40, of Kaneohe, Hawaii was sentenced for distributing CSAM. Young was part of over 75 online groups that involved other anonymous individuals who shared images and videos of CSAM and messaged about child sex abuse. Young moderated over a dozen rooms, and downloaded thousands of images and videos of CSAM onto his devices. Young was sentenced to 188 months in prison and a lifetime of supervised release as a registered sex offender.

Honolulu Man Sentenced to Ten Years in Prison for Attempted Child Enticement

August 9, 2024

Honolulu – Brent Leroy Gaston, 65, was sentenced for attempted child enticement. Gaston pleaded guilty to attempting to engage in sexual contact with two children who Gaston believed to be a nine year-old boy and an eleven year-old girl. According to information produced to the court, an undercover law enforcement officer posted a profile on a social media and dating application of an adult who would be visiting Honolulu and continued to communicate with the officer, expressing sexually explicit suggestive plans regarding the officer's purported minor children. Gaston was arrested when he arrived at a meeting purportedly to meet with the officer and the children. Gaston was sentenced to 120 months in prison and must register as a sex offender.

Rota Resident Sentenced to 10 years in Federal Prison for Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Material

August 19, 2024

Saipan, CNMI – Vincent Masga Songsong, 40, of the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), was sentenced for possession of CSAM. Songsong was convicted of the same crime in 2015 and sentenced to 78 months imprisonment. In June 2023, a United States Probation officer visited Songsong's place of employment on the island of Rota, where he was found in possession of more than 1,000 video and image files depicting the sexual exploitation of minors. To date, approximately 123 victims have been identified. Songsong was sentenced to 120 months in prison and restitution of \$47,500.

WHITE COLLAR CRIMES

[Bureau of Motor Vehicle Chief and PRC Citizen Sentenced to Federal Prison for CNMI Driver's License Fraud Scheme](#)

December 18, 2023

Saipan, CNMI – Juana Cabrera Leon Guerrero, 58, a U.S. citizen and resident of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and Yongde Li aka “Ivan”, 50, a citizen from the People's Republic of China (PRC), were sentenced for their roles in a driver licensing fraud scheme at the CNMI Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). As Chief of the BMV, Leon Guerrero knowingly permitted Ivan to submit fraudulent immigration documents to acquire driver's licenses on at least 50 occasions. Leon Guerrero was sentenced to 60 months in prison and over \$15,000 in fines. Ivan was sentenced to 10 months incarceration and 50 hours of community service.

[Former Honolulu Resident Pleads Guilty to Tax Fraud](#)

March 21, 2024

Honolulu – Sook Young Jung, a former resident of Honolulu, pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by fraudulently obtaining a tax refund and then thwarting efforts to recoup the \$1,147,036 in stolen money. Jung is scheduled to be sentenced later and faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison. She also faces a period of supervised release, restitution, and monetary penalties.

[Former Korean Airlines Guam Office Manager Sentenced to 41 Months Imprisonment for Bank Fraud and Money Laundering Scheme](#)

May 6, 2024

Hagåtña, Guam – Sung Peel Hwang a.k.a. Don Sung Peel Hwang, 39, from the Republic of Korea and naturalized citizen of the United States, was sentenced for bank fraud and money laundering. Between September 2015 through December 2018, Hwang engaged in a scheme to defraud his employer and embezzled over \$600,000. Hwang was an administrator in the Korean Airlines (KAL) Guam office at the Guam International Airport when he deposited over \$3.5 million in KAL funds into his personal bank account and diverted over \$600,000 in KAL funds to his own personal use. Hwang was sentenced to serve 41 months imprisonment and restitution of over \$615,000.



Guns seized as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (see *Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative* on page 11)

[Former Hawaii Resident Sentenced to 57 Months in Prison for Defrauding Investors of \\$1.2 Million](#)

May 8, 2024

Honolulu – Newton Kaleo DeLeon, 48, a former Big Island resident, was sentenced for wire fraud and money laundering related to a scheme to defraud at least 42 Hawaii and California victim-investors out of more than \$1.2 million. From at least 2017 through 2020, DeLeon solicited money from victim-investors, many of whom were friends and teachers, by falsely representing that the money they provided him was for his flower lei business, “leiorders.com.” Instead, DeLeon spent the money on his personal expenses, including gambling and luxury items. DeLeon was sentenced to 57 months in prison, is required to pay \$1,246,850 in restitution to the victims of the scheme and must pay a forfeiture money judgment of \$1,194,650.

[Oahu Man Sentenced to Federal Prison For Fraudulent Check Scheme](#)

May 10, 2024

Honolulu – Phong Duy Le, 49, of Honolulu, was sentenced for bank fraud, and pled guilty to a 13-count Indictment. Between August 2015 and November 2015, Le defrauded nine financial institutions in Hawaii and elsewhere by depositing checks and electronic payments into bank accounts, knowing that the deposits were not backed with sufficient funds. In total, Le engaged in 19 fraudulent transactions and attempted to obtain \$959,870 from the financial institutions. The court further found that Le successfully defrauded the institutions out of \$262,315.15. Le was sentenced to 29 months in prison. ■

INVESTIGATIVE PUBLICITY

The FBI values tips from the public to help identify and locate fugitives, missing individuals, or unknown subjects. The information we receive from the public is critical to our casework. To aid in this endeavor, field offices may distribute wanted, missing person, or seeking information posters to encourage people with information to contact the FBI. Sometimes, posters may include a reward leading to someone's recovery or capture. Investigative publicity posters also include our most well-known category of the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives." Since its inception, 532 fugitives have been featured on the Most Wanted List, and 494 have been apprehended or located. To be featured on the Most Wanted List, the fugitive must be considered dangerous, a menace to society, and/or have a lengthy record of committing serious crimes.

FBI Honolulu has several posters that are active on our webpage: <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/honolulu/wanted>.

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION

If you have information about any of our cases, please contact FBI Honolulu at (808) 566-4300, or the FBI's Toll-Free tipline at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324). You may also contact your [local FBI office](#), the nearest [American Embassy or Consulate](#), or you can submit a tip online at tips.fbi.gov.

MISSING PERSONS CASES

Typically, the FBI becomes involved in missing persons cases if local law enforcement requests assistance. Under the "Lindbergh Law" of 1932, the FBI was given jurisdiction to immediately investigate any reported mysterious disappearance or kidnapping involving a child, usually 12 or younger. The FBI can open an investigation into any missing child under 18 as an assisting agency to the local police department. [Learn more about the FBI's efforts to bring missing children home.](#)

MISSING: Abigail, Koa Kai, and Kush Kohole Bernstein (2024)

[Abigail Bernstein](#) and her two children, [Koa Kai Bernstein](#) and [Kush Kohole Bernstein](#) were last seen at Ala Wai Boat Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii in October 2022. Their posters were released in July 2024 after they were reported missing by family when they failed to return from a yearlong journey at sea.



MISSING: Maleina and Faloma Luhk (2011)

[Maleina Luhk](#) and [Faloma Luhk](#) were last seen at a bus stop near their home in the village of As Tao, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, on May 25, 2011. The sisters, age 9 and 10 at the time, were waiting for the school bus to arrive and have not been seen since that time.



WANTED FUGITIVES

The FBI often assists with fugitive cases and may obtain a federal arrest warrant and attempt to locate an individual who flees prosecution or confinement if there is reason to believe the person has traveled across a state line or left the country.

WANTED: Julianne and John Dimitrion (2009)

[Julianne Dimitrion](#) and [John Dimitrion](#), were indicted in February 2009 for mortgage fraud. In April 2009, they pled guilty to operating a fraud scheme in which they used their companies to convince distressed homeowners to relinquish their homes with the premise of improving the victims' financial position. They promised to invest the proceeds of the home sales, but instead the Dimitrions used the victims' money to fund their own lavish lifestyles. As a result, multiple families in Hawaii lost their homes. The Dimitrions were scheduled to be sentenced in the United States District Court in Honolulu, Hawaii, on July 6, 2010, but failed to appear at the sentencing. A federal warrant was then issued for their arrest.

WANTED BY THE FBI
JOHN MICHAEL DIMITRION
Failure to Appear (Mortgage Fraud)

WANTED BY THE FBI
JULIANNE BALDUEZA DIMITRION
Failure to Appear (Mortgage Fraud)

REWARD
The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest of John and Julianne Dimitrion.

CAUTION
John and Julianne are wanted for their involvement in a mortgage fraud scheme. They are wanted for their failure to appear at their sentencing on July 6, 2010. They are wanted for their involvement in a mortgage fraud scheme that resulted in the loss of many homes in Hawaii. They are wanted for their involvement in a mortgage fraud scheme that resulted in the loss of many homes in Hawaii. They are wanted for their involvement in a mortgage fraud scheme that resulted in the loss of many homes in Hawaii.

FBI POSTERS MAY INCLUDE:

- **Case Summary:** The narrative we can share with the public leading up to a fugitive or missing person's disappearance, such as when and where the individual was last seen. Some posters are used when the FBI is seeking information about a particular person to help further an investigation.
- **Descriptive Information:** Any details to help the public recognize the person if encountered, such as eye or hair color, height, weight, date and place of birth, marks like scars or tattoos, locations where the person may travel, occupations, or known aliases.
- **Photos:** The most recent and highest quality images available of the person will be included, as well as an approximate date they were taken. Sometimes, older photos or age-progressed images will be used if the person has been missing for a long time.
- **If a Fugitive Is Armed and Dangerous:** Public safety is of the utmost importance to the FBI, and as such, any especially urgent reason to locate the person may be included.
- **Translations:** Posters may be translated into a language besides English if the person is thought to have traveled to another country or if we believe a group who speaks another language could have information about the person's whereabouts. ■



REPORTING OPTIONS

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION

CONTACT FBI HONOLULU: (808) 566-4300

Or your local FBI Field Office

FBI TIP LINE: 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324)

tips.fbi.gov

Or reach out to your nearest American Embassy or Consulate

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a nationwide initiative that brings together federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and community leaders to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in a community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them.

PSN is coordinated by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices in the 94 federal judicial districts throughout the 50 states and U.S. territories. PSN is customized to account for local violent crime problems and resources. Across all districts, PSN follows four key design elements of successful violent crime reduction initiatives: community engagement, prevention and intervention, focused and strategic enforcement, and accountability. A major goal of PSN is to incorporate research and data analysis, and lessons learned from other violent crime reduction initiatives, to inform its decision-making on the most effective violence reduction strategies.

The FBI Honolulu Field Office began participating in the PSN initiative in October 2023. FBI Honolulu is a cornerstone member of the initiative in partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii, Honolulu Police Department, and various other federal, state, and local agencies. Throughout FY 2024, FBI Honolulu worked with our partners to arrest and prosecute repeat offenders. "We see the same convicted felons continue to re-offend and commit violent felonies," said FBI Honolulu Special Agent in Charge Steven Merrill, "PSN aims to hold violent offenders accountable for their crimes, take dangerous weapons and drugs off our streets, and keep our communities safe. This initiative could not be possible without our partnership with Honolulu Police Department and the U.S. Attorney's Office."

Under the PSN initiative, FBI Honolulu made five arrests, seized eight deadly weapons, including handguns and AR-style rifles, and seized 1600 grams of methamphetamine during Fiscal Year 2024. Other local, state, and federal agencies have also made additional arrests under the PSN initiative. ■



We see the same convicted felons continue to re-offend and commit violent felonies. **The Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative aims to hold violent offenders accountable for their crimes, take dangerous weapons and drugs off our streets, and keep our communities safe.** This initiative could not be possible without our partnership with Honolulu Police Department and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

FBI HONOLULU SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
STEVEN MERRILL



FBI ARRESTS & SEIZURES FY 2024



**VIOLENT CRIMINALS
ARRESTED**



**DEADLY WEAPONS
SEIZED**



**GRAMS OF
METHAMPHETAMINE
SEIZED**

CYBERSECURITY: STAYING AHEAD OF THE THREAT

In June 2024, FBI Honolulu participated in the Hawaii Cybersecurity Conference (pictured below), which took place at University of Hawaii and was hosted by CyberHawaii. The conference gave agencies an opportunity to share information and help Hawaii's diverse communities become better informed and prepared against cyber attacks. The conference brought together Hawaii-based organizations, individual consumers, and students, informing them about the current cyber threat landscape and available government resources. Participants included FBI Honolulu, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, University of Hawaii, U.S. Secret Service, Department of Defense, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, and private sector partners such as Hawaiian Telcom, Hawaiian Electric, and many more. ■



RECRUITMENT

As one of the world's most prestigious organizations, the FBI provides unparalleled experiences, training, and leadership and career development opportunities. Here at the FBI, we have rigorous standards for employment eligibility. At minimum, you must be a U.S. citizen, be able to obtain an FBI Top Secret clearance, pass our polygraph examination, and adhere to our drug policy.

With over 200 careers available, there is truly something for everyone at the FBI. Due to the mission-driven work we do, the FBI continuously recruits to ensure the best and brightest consider a career with us. At FBI Honolulu, our recruiters attend job fairs, give presentations at local schools, and participate in information fairs. During FY 2024, FBI Honolulu attended dozens of events and assisted with hundreds of applications for Special Agent and other positions. Applicants for positions at FBI Honolulu can contact our recruiting staff at HonoluluApplicants@fbi.gov. ■

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Public affairs is a vital aspect of the FBI's communication with the media and general public. Public affairs specialists handle media inquiries, pitch proactive stories, develop social media coverage, and act as a liaison between the FBI and national and local media outlets. Working directly with the main FBI's Office of Public Affairs and the Department of Justice, Public Affairs Specialists must uphold the Bureau's media relations standards.

It is vital that Public Affairs adheres to the U.S. Department of Justice [Confidentiality and Media Contacts Policy](#), which governs the protection and release of information to balance four primary interests: (1) an individual's right to a fair trial or adjudicative proceeding; (2) an individual's interest in privacy; (3) the government's ability to administer justice and promote public safety; and (4) the right of the public to have access to information about the Department of Justice.

To view all press releases, please visit the [FBI Honolulu News](#) webpage. For media inquiries, please contact the FBI Honolulu Public Affairs Office at (808) 566-4300 or honolulu_fbi_pao@fbi.gov. ■

FBI HONOLULU BY THE NUMBERS

FY 2024

RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES



38

INFORMATION
SESSIONS



38

CAREER FAIRS &
EVENTS



167

SPECIAL AGENT
APPLICANTS

HONOLULU OPERATIONS CENTER



3,300+

PUBLIC CALLS
RECEIVED

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The FBI's Community Outreach Program supports the Bureau's investigative mission by working to address multiple interrelated societal problems—including crime, drugs, gangs, terrorism, and violence. Linking community service, prevention, and law enforcement is a national trend spurred by grassroots efforts around the country, and FBI employees have joined this movement, volunteering in a wide variety of community-related efforts. For more information, visit our [Community Outreach](#) website or email HN_CommunityOutreach@fbi.gov.

DIRECTOR'S COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Since 1990, the [Director's Community Leadership Award](#) has been the principal means for the FBI to publicly recognize achievements of individuals and organizations that make extraordinary contributions to education and the prevention of crime and violence in their communities. Each field office nominates an individual or organization for the award, and recipients are invited to a ceremony and reception at FBI Headquarters.

CITIZENS ACADEMY

Citizens Academy is an engaging six to eight-week program that gives business, religious, civic, and community leaders an inside look at the FBI. Classes meet in the evening at the FBI field office. The mission of the Citizens Academy is to foster a greater understanding of the role of federal law enforcement in the community through frank discussion and education.

TEEN ACADEMY

The FBI Teen Academy program shows high school students a comprehensive look into today's FBI. Students receive presentations on topics such as cybercrime, counterintelligence, terrorism, evidence response, SWAT, and daily field office operations. FBI Honolulu's Teen Academy is usually held in June.

SPEAKING EVENTS

FBI Honolulu offers public speakers on various topics pertaining to the Bureau's investigative mission. Additionally, FBI Honolulu employees routinely participate in awareness events designed to build trust and strengthen relationships between the FBI and the communities we serve. ■



Citizens Academy alumni attend an event

FY 2024 FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY GRADUATES SESSIONS 288-292

HONOLULU AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (AOR) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES



During fiscal year 2024, five law enforcement agencies from FBI Honolulu's area of responsibility sent representatives to the FBI National Academy located at the FBI Training Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The National Academy offers 11 weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training. Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agencies to attend. On average, these officers have 21 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.



**A PUBLICATION OF THE FBI HONOLULU
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