



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

CLAYTON A. FRANK
DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 587-1350
Fax: (808) 587-1282

For Immediate Release: December 16, 2008

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IMPLEMENTING STATEWIDE
AUTOMATED VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

\$1 Million in Federal Grants to Fund Program

HONOLULU – Governor Linda Lingle and Public Safety Director Clayton Frank today announced the launch of Hawai`i's first statewide automated notification service to quickly provide victims of crime with timely information. The 24-hour service will allow Hawai`i crime victims to register to be notified by phone or email when an offender is transferred, paroled, released, or escapes.

The Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) program will be developed and implemented using a United States Department of Justice (DOJ) grant in the amount of \$706,664 that was recently awarded to the Department of Public Safety. In addition, the department also received two federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants, totaling \$390,000, to start up this program.

"This program will ensure that Hawai`i crime victims receive accurate and real-time information regarding the status of offenders and events related to their case," Governor Lingle said in announcing the grant award and statewide program.

"This is also a good example of how the state is maximizing federal dollars and our ongoing partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice for the benefit of the people of Hawai`i and I want to commend the Department of Public Safety for taking the lead in providing this very important service," added Governor Lingle.

In 2007, the Attorney General's Office asked the Department of Public Safety to take over the responsibility of implementing a statewide victim notification system.

The Hawai`i SAVIN service will be powered by VINE or Victim Information Notification Everyday, an automated service that can provide information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The notification service will be in English when it begins on February 28, 2009. Japanese will be offered by April 2009 and other languages are to be implemented later.

“The goal is to provide Hawai`i crime victims and their families with timely and reliable information, which will allow them to protect themselves and continue to participate in the criminal justice process,” said Frank.

Once the Hawaii SAVIN service begins, users will also be able to call toll free, at any time, into the automated VINE system at 1-877-VINE-4HI or log onto www.vinelink.com.

The Department of Public Safety has contracted with Appriss, a technology company based out of Louisville, Kentucky, to provide the service of automatically notifying crime victims via its patented VINE system.

Offender information from the Department of Public Safety and the Hawai`i Paroling Authority will be sent to the Appriss Operations Center every seven minutes to ensure the relevant information is constantly updated.

Appriss introduced the nation's first automated victim notification service in 1995 in Louisville, Kentucky. Currently, 42 states utilize Appriss to provide technology, operator services and technical support for their respective victim notification systems.

For more information, contact:
Louise Kim McCoy
Communications News Director
Department of Public Safety
587-3477