



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State Capitol, Fifth Floor

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808)586-0255

Fax: (808)586-0231

email: ltgov@exec.state.hi.us

www.state.hi.us/ltgov

MAZIE K. HIRONO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

June 13, 2001

Contact: Wendy Coen (808) 586-0271; or, 586-0255

ACTING GOVERNOR HIRONO SIGNS BILL TOUGHENING SENTENCES FOR HATE CRIME OFFENDERS

HONOLULU – Acting Governor Mazie K. Hirono signed SB951 Relating to Hate Crimes into law today in a Governor’s Office ceremony. The new law calls for tougher sentences for perpetrators of hate motivated crimes and also provides a mechanism to compile, track and analyze hate crime data in Hawaii. The Hate Crimes bill, now Act 240, became effective upon signature today.

“This new law will send a clear message that hate crimes will not be tolerated here in Hawaii,” Acting Governor Hirono said. “Although we like to think the people of our state are more tolerant than our mainland counterparts, recent attacks clearly show that we are not immune to hate-motivated crimes,” she added.

During the ceremony, Hirono acknowledged former Senator Randall Iwase and former Representative Annelle Amaral, with whom she worked to first introduce hate crime legislation in the Legislature nearly a decade ago.

Joining Acting Governor Hirono for the public ceremony were members of the Hawaii Hate Crimes Task Force including representatives from the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission; The Commission on the Status of Women, the American Civil Liberties Union; Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, the Japanese American Citizens League, the Organization of Chinese Americans, Domestic Violence Clearing House; and, the Civil Unions-Civil Rights Movement.