



PRESS RELEASE

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Honolulu Field Office

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For Immediate Distribution

Hoax Threat to Pearl City High School

Honolulu, Hawaii –

The Honolulu Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), along with our partners at the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and the State of Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) received information pertaining to multiple threats to students and faculty at Pearl City High School.

The FBI identified an individual responsible for the initial threat and determined that the threat was not credible and according to the subject, was intended to be a “joke”. The FBI further determined that the students and faculty of Pearl City High School were never in danger as a result of this hoax threat. Subsequent threats to the school were determined to be copycat threats based on the initial threat which has been discredited.

It should be noted that in the aftermath of tragic shootings such as the one that occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, the FBI and law enforcement around the country often see an increase in threats made to schools and other public forums.

The FBI and our partners follow up on every tip we receive from the public, and analyze and investigate all threats to determine their credibility. Federal, state, and local law enforcement then employ a full range of tools to mitigate those threats which are deemed credible. Making false threats drains law enforcement resources and cost taxpayers a lot of money. When an investigation concludes there was a false or hoax threat made to a school, or another public place, a federal charge could be considered, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison. If a federal charge is not warranted, state charges can be considered.

Public assistance is crucial to our efforts to curb these hoax threats. We ask that the public continue to contact law enforcement to report any potential threats or suspicious activity. If there is any reason to believe the safety of others is at risk, we ask that the public immediately reach out to their local police department by calling 911, or contact the FBI via tips.fbi.gov or over the phone (1-800-CALL-FBI). Members of the public can also call the FBI’s Honolulu Field Office at (808) 566-4300 to report a tip.

Early intervention can prevent a situation from escalating by identifying, assessing, and managing the threat. Remember, *if you see something, say something*. Hoax threats are not a joke, so *think before you post!*

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