



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

TED SAKAI
INTERIM DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 587-1288
Fax: (808) 587-1282

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**STATE SHERIFF DIVISION K-9 UNIT GETS FEDERAL RECOGNITION
FOR ITS WORK IN A NATIONAL OPERATION**

HONOLULU – Two Sheriff Deputies and their Deputy Sheriff canines were recognized by the United States Postal Inspection Service today for their role in “Operation Club Shabu.” The national operation ran from January 23, 2012 to February 10, 2012 and targeted illegal importation of controlled substances into Hawaii and Guam through the U.S. mail.

Deputy Sheriff Randall Silva with Deputy Sheriff Canine Zorro; and Deputy Sheriff Patrick Lewis with Deputy Sheriff Canine Rico are part of the Sheriff Division K9 Unit that worked on “Operation Club Shabu” and were presented a letter of appreciation by U.S. Postal Inspection Service Team Leader Miguel Montalvo.

The team randomly screened more than 170,000 parcels, of which 225 were alerted on by the K9s.

The Operation resulted in 36 arrests along with the seizure of various types of contraband, and over \$726,000 in cash.

“This is a great example of the collaborative partnership between the Department of Public Safety and our federal law enforcement partners in Hawaii,” said Public Safety Department Director Ted Sakai. “We will continue to work hard to ensure the safety and welfare of our community by effectively using every means at our disposal to stop harmful criminal activities”.

“Our Sheriff Division K9 teams continue to lead the Public Safety Department effort in the seizure of contraband and in stopping the flow of funds from illegal activities,” said State Sheriff Shawn Tsuha. “We look forward to successful future efforts with our federal, state and county partners.”

The first of several asset forfeiture checks was also given to the Sheriff Division. That money can be used for law enforcement training and equipment.

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Since June of 2007 Sheriff Division K9 teams have contributed to the overall law enforcement effort against criminal activity which resulted in:

Total currency seizures =\$1,813,507

Total marijuana seizures = 501 lbs.

Total meth seizures = 66 lbs.

Total cocaine seizures = 16 lbs.

Total heroin seizures = 3.2 ounces

Total MDMA (Ecstasy) seizures = 4,222 units

The Sheriff Division K9 Unit provides law enforcement by trained handlers and canines that support explosive and drug detection operations for federal, state and county law enforcement efforts.

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For more information contact:

Toni Schwartz
Public Information Officer
Department of Public Safety
Office: 587-1358
Cell: 683-5507
Toni.E.Schwartz@hawaii.gov
<http://hawaii.gov/psd/>