



**BIG ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE MORE THAN
\$443,000 TO COMBAT CRYSTAL METH, INOUYE ANNOUNCES**

Thursday, September 13, 2007

For Immediate Release

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye announced today that the Hawaii County Police Department will receive a federal grant of more than \$443,000 to assist the County in its fight against the illicit drug crystal meth. Known on the streets as “ice,” crystal meth has ruined the lives of many in Hawaii.

The grant of \$443,405 is coming through the Justice Department’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services’ Methamphetamine Initiative. The funds will be used to deter the manufacture, use, and distribution of meth, and to work with other organizations to prevent and treat meth abuse.

“As I have done in recent years, I was on the Big Island last month to participate in the Crystal Meth Summit that brings together stakeholders committed to combating ice through enforcement, treatment, and prevention/education efforts,” Senator Inouye said. “Ice is a deadly, addictive drug that, frankly, is linked to violence and crime. It hurts not just users, but also their families.

“Nearly seven years ago, shortly after Harry Kim was elected Big Island Mayor, he and I met in his Hilo office to discuss the crystal meth epidemic on his island. We agreed to work together, and I promised to help him secure federal grants to fight ice.

“I am pleased that what began as one island’s effort has become a statewide initiative. Federal funds can make a difference. But grassroots efforts – communities coming together – can be equally effective, and I am pleased to see that happening.”

Since 2006, Senator Inouye has secured more than \$2.4 million in federal funds to fight ice throughout the State.