



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
INSURANCE DIVISION

DCCA News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 18, 2005

DCCA REPORTS PRISON TIME FOR A MAN CONVICTED OF AUTO INSURANCE FRAUD

HONOLULU -- The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Insurance Division reports the successful prosecution of a man who tried to cheat the auto insurance system.

Ming Wei Chen was convicted of Theft in the Second Degree for trying to scam GEICO Indemnity Company out of \$6,237.17 in insurance money. In May 2002, Chen helped stage the theft of a vehicle after stripping it. The theft and loss was reported to GEICO. After the false claim was filed, Chen replaced the stripped items with the original parts, with GEICO paying for the alleged replacement parts.

On July 13, 2005, Judge Michael Wilson ordered Ming Wei Chen to serve a five year prison sentence. Under the terms of a plea agreement, Chen must serve a mandatory minimum prison term of one year and eight months as a repeat offender.

In a separate case, the Department of the Attorney General charged Chen with Theft in the Second Degree for tampering with a car odometer and misrepresenting the true mileage to the buyer. In that case, Chen was also convicted and sentenced to five years of incarceration, with a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of one year and eight months.

The Court ordered Chen to pay restitution to GEICO in the amount of \$6,237.17 and \$2,000.00 to the victim in the odometer tampering case. He will serve both prison terms concurrently.

Theft in the Second Degree is a C felony that is punishable by up to five years of incarceration and/or a fine of up to \$10,000.00.

The Insurance Division reminds the public that the filing of false claims inflates the cost of car insurance for everyone. To anonymously report motor vehicle insurance fraud on Oahu, call the Insurance Fraud Hotline at 587-7416.

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