



For immediate release
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Lilinoe “Noe” Smith
Former union employee embezzled funds

Honolulu - May 6, 2024 - In regards to recent news reports regarding theft of Union dues money by a former union employee, Lilinoe “Noe” Smith, the status is currently upon which the *State of Hawaii Attorney General's* office has filed criminal charges against Mrs. Smith.

Rest assured that there were no members who lost any dues money in their personal accounts. An internal audit by the Union caught Mrs. Smith improperly taking money from those members that paid cash for their dues. While it was small amounts, it added up over the years. Mrs. Smith was immediately terminated and protections were put in place, such as not accepting cash at the dues window. When Mrs. Smith was terminated, the Union made Mrs. Smith sign a promissory note to pay back what was stolen with interest. The Union contacted the International Office to report the theft and the Federal Department of Labor was notified. The Union did a special audit with *Chinen, Lemke, & Tanaka*, and the findings were turned over to the Federal Department of Labor. The Union’s Business Manager reported the theft to the Union’s Executive Board and at the General Membership meeting without divulging any names because of the ongoing criminal investigation. Mrs. Smith made a partial payment to the Union and the International opened a case with the Bonding Company. The Union’s Attorney filed a case against Mrs.

Smith with the goal of executing on her Annuity account when she became qualified to take it out. The Union has obtained a judgment against Mrs. Smith for the balance of the money she stole in addition to interest owed. After obtaining the judgment against Mrs. Smith, the Bonding Company paid the Union the balance of the money that was improperly taken by Mrs. Smith.

The Union could not give a detailed report to the members because of the pending criminal investigation, the civil action that was filed against Mrs. Smith and the claim with the bonding company. Mrs. Smith's arraignment is currently set for May 13th. The Union will continue to monitor this situation and will keep our members informed of any new developments.

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