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UNIFIED EFFORT ALLOWS HPD TO DISMANTLE ILLEGAL GAME ROOMS

Strategy promotes stronger and stricter enforcement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HONOLULU – A multi-pronged enforcement strategy by the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), the Honolulu Prosecutor’s Office, Department of Planning and Permitting, Homeland Security Investigations, and support of city and state lawmakers has led to a reduction in operational illegal game rooms across the island. This new approach allows for stronger and stricter enforcement.

“HPD’s Narcotics/Vice Division no longer has to act alone in this effort. With this collaboration, we’ve adopted a more aggressive and coordinated approach to enforcement,” said HPD’s Narcotics/Vice Division Acting Major Jerome Pacarro. “This unified effort enables us not only to dismantle illegal game room operations, but also to hold property owners accountable for knowingly allowing such activity on their premises.”

Statistics provided by the Narcotics/Vice Division show the department on track to meet or beat most of 2024’s numbers.

	2024 (Total)	2025 (Jan. – Jun.)
Operational Game Rooms	150 – 160	60 – 70 (** Projected Total)
Search Warrants Executed	40	19
Recovered Machines	579	289
Arrests	10	15
Recovered Money	\$200,000	\$150,000
Recovered Firearms	9	1

The most recent successful operation happened Tuesday, July 8, 2025, following a covert investigation at an illegal game room near Farrington Highway, where officers discovered 20 illegal machines and arrested a 29-year-old male suspect for Promoting Gambling in the

Second Degree and Possession of a Gambling Device. In addition to the machines, officers seized \$3,615 in cash and illicit drugs.

Policing always works best with the community by our side, so HPD encourages everyone to be aware, look out for, and report any illegal game room activities in their neighborhoods. If anyone sees suspicious-looking individuals, or an unusually high number of vehicles visiting a particular house at all hours of the day and night, call the Narcotics/Vice Division's 24-hour hotline at (808) 723-3933 or use the online form: <https://rb.gy/4066m5>.

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