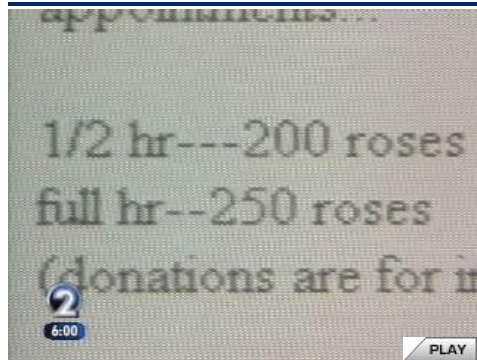




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LOCAL TOP STORIES



Prostitutes Soliciting Customers on Popular Website

By Andrew Pereira

Craigslist.org is a popular website for people looking to buy or sell everything from automobiles to appliances. The company says 20 million customers visit the internet portal every month.

However some people are now selling sex on the internet bulletin board. It's a problem in many of the 450 cities served by Craigslist, including here in Honolulu.

The ads in the Hawaii section of Craigslist are not hard to find - dozens of them that solicit prostitution are posted every day. However the ads are carefully worded and don't mention money or sex directly.

The ads ask for "roses" instead of cash. One ad posted on the website reads, "Like me, buy me, only 175 roses."

Others ads offer "full body massages" to "generous gentlemen" and some of the ads have sexually explicit photographs.

Clayton Hee, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee says the ads appear to circumvent Hawaii's law against the promotion of prostitution. "This is another example where the spirit of the law obviously is not being followed by certain individuals," Hee said.

Susan MacTavish Best who handles public relations for Craigslist told Khon2 via e-mail that pornography and illegal activity is forbidden on the company's website through its terms of use contract.

Best says users of Craigslist can "flag" ads that they find inappropriate, but it takes more than one flag to remove a posting. She says users can also contact the company directly through e-mails (abuse@craigslist.org) that are "read very quickly" by the company's customer service staff.

Honolulu Police Captain Kerry Inouye of the Narcotics / Vice Division says detectives are aware of prostitutes offering their services on the internet, but refused to say whether police are targeting ads on Craigslist.

"We're very aware that the internet has changed everything," said Inouye.

Senator Hee believes it may take a change in the law to put a stop to illegal activity on Craigslist and other websites.

"I will probably, more likely than not, try to come up with a proposal that will tighten if not eliminate the loophole altogether," Hee said.

Craigslist Hawaii

Story Updated: Jul 18, 2007 at 6:50 PM HDT

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- EMAIL THIS
- PRINT THIS
- MOST POPULAR

WEATHER

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THU	82	69
FRI	82	70
SAT	83	71
SUN	83	71
MON	83	71

**KHON2 SURF FORECAST**

KAHOOLAWEKE	2-4
KAHOOLAWEKE	1-3
KAHOOLAWEKE	5-8
KAHOOLAWEKE	1-3

More Weather



AP VIDEO

- First Person: Fearing the Flood in Missouri
- Child Dead, False Kidnapping Reported
- Florida Police Hunt Boca Raton Mall Killer

CAST YOUR VOTE

Which American Idol contestant do you think will be voted off this week?

- Amanda Overmyer
- Brooke White
- Carly Smith
- Chikezie
- David Archuleta
- David Cook
- Jason Castro
- Kristy Lee Cook
- Michael Jones
- Ramiele Malubay
- Syesha Mercado

Submit

MOST POPULAR


- Mahjong
- St. Louis Student Linked with Prostitution Bust
- Man Accused of Sexually Assaulting 1 Year Old
- Tourists Robbed While Sleeping
- Man charged in infant sex assault case



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