

ASSOCIATED PRESS

# AFTERMATH

Millions in Japan go without food, water or heat >> A3

Kapolei man struggles to stay in touch with wife in Japan >> B1

Patients were treated for possible radiation exposure yesterday at Fukushima Gender Equality Centre in Nihonmatsu, Japan. They had been evacuated from an area near the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex.



# HONOLULU Star Advertiser

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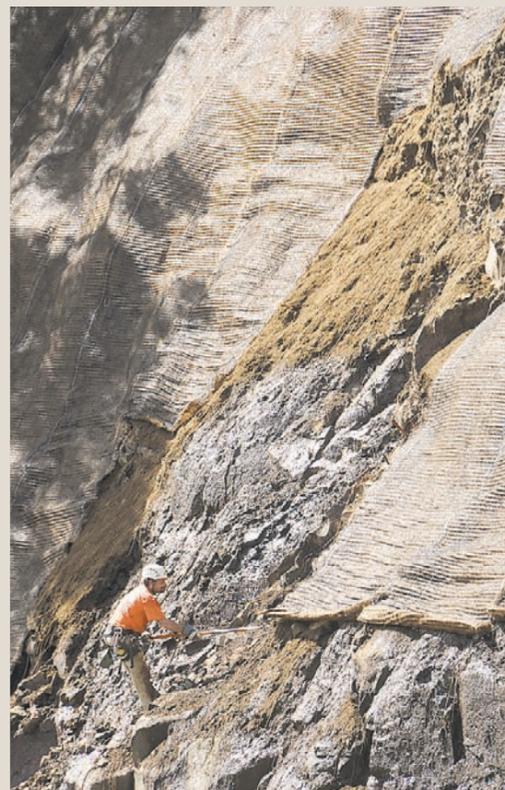
sports

## TOURNEY BRACKETS SECURED

Ohio State is designated the team to beat >> C1



local



## PALI WORK ENDS EARLY

The highway reopens ahead of schedule after crews finish securing the hillside to prevent landslides >> B1

# Conditional release holds mentally ill in state's care

A bill in the Senate would automatically free people from the program after a year

BY ROB PEREZ rperez@staradvertiser.com

Dozens of people acquitted of minor criminal offenses because of mental illness have remained under the state's supervision for years, resulting in what experts say is wasteful spending of potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars annually at a time of severe budget cuts.

Proponents of reforming the program say the majority of the roughly 150 misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor offenders in the program remain under state oversight — similar to probation — for longer than they need to be and well beyond the maximum sentence they could have received had they been convicted.

The prolonged oversight, they add, unfairly deprives people of civil liberties and contributes to an overburdened judicial and mental health system.

One man who was acquitted of stealing a bicycle



COURTESY EMANUEL CAPSHAW

Emanuel Capshaw, back row center in this photograph of his Army sniper team in Afghanistan, was acquitted by reason of insanity of two misdemeanor domestic abuse charges nearly two years ago. He is seeking discharge from court supervision.

22 years ago, for instance, still gets thousands of dollars in mandated services annually, including supervision by a probation officer, case manager, psychiatrist and a forensic coordinator or

psychologist. Another person who damaged a door with an ashtray but was acquitted of criminal property damage 12 years ago likewise remains in the system, receiving similar services.

Cases like these raise questions, even among state officials, about the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Hawaii's misdemeanor offenders on average spend about five years in the so-called conditional release program, costing the state roughly \$400,000 a case or millions annually, according to state data and officials. The average tenure is five times longer than the

Please see Release, A7

BY THE NUMBERS  
Defendants acquitted of misdemeanors because of mental illness eventually can be conditionally released by the court:

150

Misdemeanor offenders currently in the conditional release program

\$400,000

State cost per case

5 years

Average tenure of a defendant in the misdemeanor program

1 year

Maximum misdemeanor sentence

450

Conditional release population, including those convicted of felonies

## PLUS SYMPHONY GROUP FILLED WITH OPTIMISM

Supporters say they have been overwhelmed by offers of help >> B4

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today

## BRINGING THE INSIDE OUTSIDE

Quality furnishings, fabrics and accent pieces make outdoor spaces feel like an extension of the living room >> D1

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