



Dear County of Hawai'i Ice Summit Attendees:

It goes without saying that I am looking forward to participating in the County of Hawai'i Ice Summit. It is an opportunity to discuss an issue that I feel very passionately about -- defeating the abuse of meth in all its forms, including ice. Having grown up in a small town, I knew there is a sense among some folks that drugs only affect big cities. They're wrong. Meth is the number-one drug problem in small-town America.

My experience as a Congressman from Arkansas brought me face-to-face with the misery of methamphetamine abuse. I spoke with people who have fallen victim to this drug's powerful addiction. I saw the damage inflicted on families and communities. Those experiences have helped shape my leadership of the Drug Enforcement Administration and helped maintain my focus on stopping the spread of methamphetamine. This drug is not only dangerous for those who abuse it, but it also has secondhand effects. The psychosis, violence and crime produced by ice put large numbers of the population in danger and place a huge burden on local law enforcement personnel.

Someday, I hope that I will not be invited to attend an ice summit in Hawai'i, because I hope that, someday, we will have ended the problem. But it will take all of us working together. For now, a realistic goal is to find an effective strategy for addressing the problem of methamphetamine abuse -- one that combines education and treatment with accountability and enforcement. And there is no better way to come up with new ideas than at gatherings like this one.

That's why I look forward to meeting with all of you -- representatives of the law enforcement, public health, prevention, treatment, education and other agencies of the County of Hawai'i -- to see how much we can accomplish as a team.

Thank you for what you're doing for Hawai'i.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Holder".