Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is there a time limit to file a claim for unclaimed property?

A: Unclaimed property owners may file a claim for unclaimed property at anytime.

Q: Is there a fee to file a claim for unclaimed property?

A: There is no fee to file a claim for unclaimed property with the State.
The State of Hawaii Unclaimed Property Program is a public service provided by the State.

Q: Who are professional locators and heir finders?

A: Professional locators and heir finders are businesses that contact unclaimed property owners to assist in the recovery of abandoned property for a fee. Laws governing fees and other requirements are included in Chapter 523A-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Q: How do I prove ownership of the property?

A: Proof of ownership is documentation which connects a claimant to information provided by the reporting company. An affidavit document is not accepted as proof of ownership.

Coincidence of having the same name as that listed on a property does not establish ownership, as there are many people who share the same name.

Q: I am having difficulty proving ownership to the property. What can I do?

A: Obtain a letter from the Reporting Company identifying you as either the Reported Owner or as the person entitled to the property.

Q: How long does it take to process a claim?

A: Claims are processed in the order in which they are received. Failure to submit a completed claim form and proper documentation will delay the processing of your claim.

Q: I have moved since submitting my claim, what do I do?

A: Contact the State of Hawaii Unclaimed Property Program as soon as possible to update your mailing address.

Q: I am filing a claim for stock or mutual fund shares, what do I do?

A: Claimants are advised to contact the State of Hawaii Unclaimed Property Office prior to filing a claim for stock or mutual fund shares. When filing for stock or mutual fund shares submit a completed, signed, and dated IRS Form W-9.

Frequently Asked Questions - continued

Q: I am filing a claim for safe deposit box contents, what do I do?

A: Claimants are advised to contact the State of Hawaii Unclaimed Property Office prior to filing a claim for safe deposit box contents. When filing for safe deposit box contents submit a receipt from the financial institution evidencing payment of fees or a letter from the financial institution stating that no fees are due.

Q: I am filing a claim for cashier's check, what document do I need?

A: The original cashier's check is required to process the claim.

Q: I have unclaimed property listed under my previous name. What documentation is required?

A: Submit a copy of the legal document evidencing the name change. Documents commonly accepted are birth and marriage certificates and court documents.

Q: I am the parent or legal guardian of a minor who is listed as the owner of unclaimed property. What documentation is required?

A: The parent or legal guardian of a minor must submit a copy of the legal document evidencing your relation to the minor. Documents commonly accepted are birth certificate or court documents appointing the legal guardian. Also submit a copy of the social security card of the minor. Payment for the unclaimed property will be made to the reported owner(s).

Q: I have Power of Attorney for a person listed as the owner of unclaimed property. What documentation is required?

A: The Power of Attorney document authorizes you to sign the claim form on behalf of the reported owner. You must submit a copy of the document evidencing your authority to sign as attorney-in-fact. Payment for the unclaimed property will be made to the reported owner(s).

A Power of Attorney document does not authorize you to file a claim form on behalf of a deceased reported owner.

Q: I am filing a claim on behalf of a dissolved business, what do I do?

A: Contact the State of Hawaii Unclaimed Property Office prior to filing a claim on behalf of a dissolved business.