



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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For Immediate Release: August 12, 2008

08-73

**STATE ANNOUNCES PUBLICATION OF HAWAII'S FRAUD  
PREVENTION & RESOURCE GUIDE**

HONOLULU -- The State of Hawai'i Executive Office on Aging, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Department of the Attorney General today announced the release of *Hawai'i's Fraud Prevention & Resource Guide*. The 134-page booklet, the state's first comprehensive guide designed to help the public fight fraud, provides information and resources regarding different types of fraud, including identity theft, internet fraud, tax fraud, securities fraud, and healthcare fraud. The three state agencies developed the guide, with information contributed from the public and private sectors.

In 2007, Hawai'i ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the number of fraud complaints relative to the size of Hawai'i's population, according to the Federal Trade Commission. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services estimates one out of every ten dollars Medicare spends in Hawai'i is lost to fraud each year.

In 2007, the State Legislature passed and Governor Linda Lingle signed three bills to protect Hawai'i's kupuna from financial abuse and fraud. Senate Bill 1400 requires financial institutions to report suspected financial abuse of an elder; House Bill 1306 adds enhanced penalties for

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securities violations committed against seniors; and House Bill 1336 provides additional sanctions for violations by mortgage brokers and solicitors committed against seniors. *Hawai'i's Fraud Prevention & Resource Guide* adds to these State initiatives to fight consumer fraud.

The Executive Office on Aging provided primary funding for the guide with a grant from the U.S. Administration on Aging. The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs contributed additional funds.

The guide is available at State public libraries, at University of Hawai'i libraries, and on the Internet at <http://hawaii.gov/health/eoa/>. Hard copies are available for pick-up from the offices listed below, free of charge while supplies last. For details on how to obtain booklets, call:

Executive Office on Aging at (808) 586-0100

Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs at (808) 587-7400

Elderly Affairs Division of the City and County of Honolulu at (808) 768-7700

Hawai'i County Office of Aging in Hilo at (808) 961-8600

Maui County Office on Aging in Wailuku at (808) 270-7755

Kaua'i Agency on Elderly Affairs in Lihu'e at (808) 241-4470

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