



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**SECURITY BREACH AT WAHIAWA WIC PROGRAM**  
*Registered families notified of possible identity theft*

HONOLULU — The Wahiawa Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program has discovered a security breach in their database system of registered families. An employee of the program has been placed on leave while an administrative and police investigation of unauthorized, illegal and inappropriate use of WIC personal information is underway.

“We very much regret that this incident occurred and the impact it may have on our Wahiawa WIC families,” said Health Director Chiyome Fukino, M.D. “As a result of this incident and to protect those we serve, our WIC program has decided to no longer use Social Security numbers in their database.”

In December 2006, Wahiawa WIC Unit staff discovered an employee may have accessed the Wahiawa WIC database and used names and Social Security numbers to open credit accounts and make unauthorized purchases. At least three WIC families have had their files illegally used. As a precaution, 11,500 past and present families registered with the Wahiawa Unit are being notified by mail. All Wahiawa WIC families are advised to place a fraud alert on their credit files and notify the police if they find any suspicious credit activity.

“Many WIC families served by our Wahiawa unit may have changed their address since registering with the program, especially since many military families use the Wahiawa office. The program may not be able to reach these families by mail, so we hope the news media will help to get the word out,” said Linda Chock, Chief of the WIC Services Branch.

Anyone needing further information may call the WIC Program at (808) 586-8080. Helpful websites on identity theft include [www.hawaii.gov/dcca/quicklinks/id\\_theft\\_info/](http://www.hawaii.gov/dcca/quicklinks/id_theft_info/) and the [www.consumer.gov/idtheft/](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/).

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), is a federally funded program which provides Hawaii residents with nourishing supplemental foods,

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nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and health and social service referrals. The participants of WIC are either pregnant, breastfeeding, or postpartum women, and infants and children under age five who meet income guidelines and have a medical or nutritional risk.

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For more information, contact:  
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