



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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DOH INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE BOTULISM CASE ON MAUI

HONOLULU – The Hawai`i State Department of Health (DOH) is investigating a possible case of botulism on Maui. The case meets some of the clinical criteria for botulism and is receiving appropriate treatment while further laboratory testing is conducted to confirm the cause of illness.

“The DOH has consulted with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and although the case has not been confirmed as botulism poisoning, we are taking every precaution,” said Health Director Dr. Chiyome Fukino. “The DOH has put out notices statewide about the recalled product and the risk of botulism poisoning. Everyone can help by spreading the word and calling the Department if they see the product for sale.”

Exposure to botulinum toxin can be fatal. Symptoms of botulism poisoning in humans can begin from 6 hours to 10 days after eating food that contains the toxin. Symptoms may include double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, and muscle weakness that moves progressively down the body, affecting the shoulders first then descending to the upper arms, lower arms, thighs, calves, etc. Botulism poisoning can also cause paralysis of the breathing muscles. Individuals who show these symptoms and who may have recently eaten one of the Castleberry’s products currently under recall should seek immediate medical attention.

Consumers should not use these products even if they do not look or smell spoiled. Consumers who have any of these products or any foods made with these products should throw them away immediately. Double bag the cans in plastic bags that are tightly closed then place in a trash

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receptacle for non-recyclable trash outside of the home. Additional instructions for safe disposal can be found at www.cdc.gov/botulism/botulism_faq.htm

Anyone seeing the sale or distribution of recalled products can report it to the DOH Food and Drug Branch at **(808) 586-4725**, or on the neighbor islands call their DOH District Health Office.

A complete list of recalled products and other information can be found on the Castleberry's website at www.castleberrys.com or call Castleberry's consumer hotline at **1-800-203-4412** or **1-888-203-8446**. Consumers can also call FDA at 1-888-SAFEFOOD or visit the FDA website for current updates and information at: <http://www.fda.gov>.

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