



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**CONSUMERS ADVISED TO DISCARD GROUND BEEF PRODUCTS
FROM SAFEWAY BETWEEN SEPT. 19 AND NOV. 5, 2007**

HONOLULU – The Hawai`i State Department of Health (DOH) is advising consumers to check their freezers and to discard any ground beef products that were purchased between September 19 and November 5, 2007 from any Safeway supermarkets. This meat product could have been contaminated with *Salmonella* Newport, a bacterium that can cause severe gastrointestinal illness. If this product is in your freezer it should be discarded.

The DOH was notified of the public health alert by the United States Department of Agriculture this afternoon. The DOH has received no confirmed reports of illness in Hawai`i associated with this product. However, there have been 38 reported cases of illness associated with this product in 4 other states.

Only fresh ground beef products sold at Safeway between September 19 and November 5, 2007 are affected by this advisory. Meat products bought before September 19 or after November 5, 2007 are NOT included in this advisory.

Food contaminated with *Salmonella* can cause salmonellosis, one of the most common bacterial foodborne illnesses. *Salmonella* infections can be life-threatening, especially to those with weak immune systems, such as infants and the elderly. This particular strain of *Salmonella* is resistant to many commonly prescribed drugs, which can increase the risk of hospitalization. The most common symptoms of salmonellosis are diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and fever within eight to 72 hours. Additional symptoms may be chills, headache, nausea and vomiting that can last up to seven days.

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