



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

---

Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General  
Phone: (808) 586-1500  
Fax: (808) 586-1239

---

For Immediate Release: April 13, 2006

News Release No. 2006-09

**HEIGHTENED RISK OF IDENTITY THEFT**

HONOLULU – The Attorney General of Hawai'i is strongly encouraging over 40,000 individuals who are at risk for identity theft, including 22,000 private sector employees and 21,500 members of the Hawaii Government Employees Association ("HGEA") and the United Public Workers union ("UPW"), to take protective measures. At a minimum, individuals are advised to obtain free credit reports and to monitor their Social Security Statements and personal accounts for unusual activity.

The measure follows the recent notification to the Attorney General by federal law enforcement officials (the United States Secret Service) of the theft of insurance company records that list the names and social security numbers of persons who enrolled in certain health and group life insurance plans in 1999. The records were produced by the Voluntary Employees Benefit Association of Hawaii in a civil lawsuit that the State brought against HGEA, UPW, and others, and they were copied at the request of the Attorney General for litigation purposes by a professional copying service in Honolulu.

Federal officials informed the Department of the Attorney General in January 2006 that unauthorized copies of some of the records were made by a person or persons unknown, apparently while the records were at the professional copying service. They were later found by the Honolulu Police Department on a computer used by an individual being investigated for drug offenses. The incident has not been disclosed before now because that could have impaired the federal investigation. The federal authorities (the United States Secret Service and the United States Postal Inspection Service) made a request that the theft not be publicly disclosed until now. The investigation by federal authorities continues.

"Identity theft is a serious crime and a growing national problem. Records containing social security numbers and other personal information can be used by thieves to obtain credit cards, to open fraudulent bank accounts, to mortgage real property, and to purchase automobiles. If debts incurred in those transactions are not paid, the credit of

those whose identity has been stolen could be impaired. In some cases, it might take years for individuals to clear their records and restore their credit. We are taking this issue very seriously and strongly advise those affected, at a minimum, to obtain and review their credit reports, which are free under federal law," said Mark Bennett, Attorney General. "We very much regret the very serious impact this theft will have on so many persons."

Private sector employees whose names have been found among the stolen records are being contacted directly in writing by the Attorney General. In addition, members of UPW and HGEA who were enrolled in the following union health and group life insurance plans in the months indicated may be at risk for identity theft and are being contacted directly in writing by the Attorney General: [Both groups are being given specific instructions as to what they can do if they believe they are the victims of identity theft.]

For UPW members:

TYPE OF COVERAGE	INSURER	MONTH ENROLLED
Dental	HDS	September 1999
Dental	HDS	October 1999
Dental	HDS	November 1999
Medical/Drug	HMSA	July 1999
Medical/Drug	HMSA	September 1999
Medical/Drug	HMSA	October 1999
Medical/Drug	HMSA	November 1999
Medical/Drug	Kaiser B	September 1999

Note: The names and social security numbers of the spouse and dependent children of UPW members who were enrolled in the above plans were included in the records that were copied, and those individuals are also at risk of identity theft.

For HGEA members:

TYPE OF COVERAGE	INSURER	MONTH ENROLLED
HMSA Premier (Medical/Drug)	HMSA	July 1999
HMSA Premier (Dental)	HDS	July 1999
HMSA Premier (Vision)	VSP	July 1999
HMSA Royal (Medical/Drug)	HMSA	July 1999
HMSA Royal (Dental)	HDS	July 1999
HMSA Royal (Chiropractic)	CPH	July 1999
HMSA Royal (Medical)	RSN	July 1999

Kapiolani Health Hawaii (Dental)	HDS	July 1999
Kapiolani Health Hawaii (Medical/Drug)	Kapiolani	July 1999
Group Life	RSN	July 1999
Group Life	RSN	December 1999
Specialty Group Term Life	RSN	July 1999
Specialty Group Term Life	RSN	December 1999
CHAMP (Medical)	RSN	December 1999

Note: The spouse and dependent children of HGEA members were not included in the stolen lists. Those individuals are thus not at risk.

---

HDS – Hawaii Dental Service  
HMSA – Hawaii Medical Service Association  
Kaiser – Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.  
VSP – Vision Service Plan  
CPH – Chiro Plan Hawaii, Inc.  
RSN – Royal State National Insurance Company, Ltd.  
Kapiolani – Kapiolani Health Hawaii

Attached is a copy of the letter that will go to affected persons. Information about this incident as well as information on how you can protect yourself and members of your family may be accessed at our website: [www.hawaii.gov/aq](http://www.hawaii.gov/aq).

For more information, contact:

Dana Viola  
Special Assistant to the Attorney General  
(808) 586-1284  
hawaiiag@hawaii.gov

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



MARK J. BENNETT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

LISA M. GINOZA  
FIRST DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
425 QUEEN STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 13, 2006

**We are contacting you about a potential problem involving identity theft.**

In January 2006, we were informed by federal law enforcement officials that the names and social security numbers of more than 40,000 individuals were found on a computer that was seized by the Honolulu Police Department pursuant to a search warrant. We were asked by those officials to delay notification until now because of their criminal investigation. We understand that the computer was used by an individual being investigated for a drug offense.

The names and social security numbers were included among records that had been disclosed in a civil lawsuit that the State of Hawaii brought against the Hawaii Government Employees Association ("HGEA"), the United Public Workers ("UPW"), and others, involving amounts the State had paid for medical, dental, and life insurance benefits for public employees. During the course of the litigation, the Voluntary Employees' Benefit Association of Hawaii provided the State with various printed records that included the names and social security numbers of both government employees and others. Electronic copies of those records were made for litigation purposes by a professional copy service in Honolulu, and the printed records were returned.

Unauthorized copies of some of the records were made by a person or persons presently unknown, apparently while the records were at the professional copy service. Names and social security numbers were copied as well as the birthdates of UPW members, their spouses and dependents. An investigation into the matter is being conducted by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

You are receiving this letter and are at risk for identity theft for one of the following reasons: (1) your name and social security number have been found among those that were copied; or (2) you were enrolled between July and

December of 1999 in the health and group life insurance plans sponsored by HGEA or UPW that are listed on the enclosure with this letter. The spouse and dependent children of members of UPW who were covered by those plans are also at risk because their personal information was included in the records that were copied.

**We recommend that you place a fraud alert on your credit file.** A fraud alert tells creditors to contact you before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. Call any one of the three major credit bureaus. As soon as one credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, the others are notified to place fraud alerts. Credit reports from all three credit bureaus will be sent to you, free of charge, for your review.

<b>Equifax</b>	<b>Experian</b>	<b>TransUnionCorp</b>
<b>800-525-6285</b>	<b>888-397-3742</b>	<b>800-680-7289</b>

Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on your initial credit reports, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you **check your credit reports periodically**. Victim information sometimes is held for use or shared among a group of thieves at different times. Checking your credit reports periodically can help you spot problems and address them quickly.

**If you find suspicious activity on your credit reports** or have reason to believe your information is being misused, **file a police report**. You may contact your local police department at the following numbers:

City and County of Honolulu	<u>911</u>
Maui County	<u>244-6400</u>
Kauai County	<u>241-1711</u>
Hawaii County	<u>935-3311</u>

We suggest you obtain a copy of any police report you file; many creditors want the information it contains to absolve you of the fraudulent debts. You should also file a complaint with the FTC at [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft) or at 1-

877-ID-THEFT (438-4338). Your complaint will be added to the FTC's Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, where it will be accessible to law enforcers for their investigations.

The unauthorized release of your personal information may not result in any harm to your credit standing or to your personal finances. However, the information that has been stolen could be used by identity thieves, and that could compromise the finances of those involved. To protect against that possibility, we advise you to take the steps outlined above.

I very much regret that this theft occurred and the impact it may have on so many people.

We have set up a special website providing further information about this incident and how you can protect yourself and members of your family. The address is [www.hawaii.gov/ag](http://www.hawaii.gov/ag).

Very truly yours,

Mark J. Bennett  
Attorney General

## LIST OF HGEA & UPW HEALTH PLANS

### UPW Plans

Dental	HDS	September 1999
Dental	HDS	October 1999
Dental	HDS	November 1999
Medical/Drug	HMSA	July 1999
Medical/Drug	HMSA	September 1999
Medical/Drug	HMSA	October 1999
Medical/Drug	HMSA	November 1999
Medical/Drug	Kaiser B	September 1999

Note: The names and social security numbers of the spouse and dependent children of UPW members who were enrolled in the above plans were included in the records that were compromised, and those individuals are therefore at risk of identity theft.

### HGEA Plans

HMSA Premier (Medical/Drug)	HMSA	July 1999
HMSA Premier (Dental)	HDS	July 1999
HMSA Premier (Vision)	VSP	July 1999
HMSA Royal (Medical/Drug)	HMSA	July 1999
HMSA Royal (Dental)	HDS	July 1999
HMSA Royal (Chiropractic)	CPH	July 1999
HMSA Royal (Medical)	RSN	July 1999
Kapiolani Health Hawaii (Dental)	HDS	July 1999
Kapiolani Health Hawaii (Medical/Drug)	Kapiolani	July 1999
Group Life	RSN	July 1999
Group Life	RSN	December 1999
Specialty Group Term Life	RSN	July 1999
Specialty Group Term Life	RSN	December 1999
CHAMP (Medical)	RSN	December 1999

Note: The spouse and dependent children of HGEA members were not included in the stolen lists. Those individuals are thus not at risk.

HDS – Hawaii Dental Service  
HMSA – Hawaii Medical Service Association  
Kaiser – Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.  
VSP – Vision Service Plan  
CPH – Chiro Plan Hawaii, Inc.  
RSN – Royal State National Insurance Company, Ltd.  
Kapiolani – Kapiolani Health Hawaii