

## **GOVERNOR LINGLE SIGNS BILLS TO PROTECT HAWAII RESIDENTS FROM IDENTITY THEFT**

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HONOLULU – Governor Linda Lingle today signed six bills into law that will better protect Hawai`i residents from identity theft and provide law enforcement with additional tools to deter and prosecute identity theft crimes.

“These bills offer new ways to protect consumers from the fastest growing crime across the nation,” said Governor Lingle. “My administration is proud to announce that Hawai`i will now have some of the most comprehensive laws in place to protect consumers from identity theft.”

The following is a brief summary of the bills:

**Notification of Security Breaches (SB2290 SD2 HD1 CD1, Act 135):** The bill requires businesses and government agencies that keep confidential personal information about consumers to notify those consumers if that information has been compromised by an unauthorized disclosure.

**Destruction of Personal Information (SB 2292 SD2 HD1 CD1, Act 136):** The bill, which is also referred to as the “dumpster diving” bill, requires businesses and government agencies to take reasonable measures to protect against unauthorized access to an individual’s personal information when disposing of the records they keep.

**Social Security Number Protection (SB2293 SD2 HD1 CD1, Act 137):** The bill reduces the risks associated with the fraudulent use of Social Security numbers by restricting businesses and government agencies from disclosing consumers’ Social Security numbers to the general public.

**Security Freeze (HB1871 HD1 SD2 CD1, Act 138):** The bill allows victims of identity theft to place a security freeze on their credit reports, which will help prevent identity thieves from taking out credit in the names of their victims.

**Criminal Penalties (SB2159 SD2 HD1 CD1, Act 139):** The bill provides increased protection of personal information by establishing “unauthorized possession of confidential personal information” as a class C felony and adding identity theft as an enumerated offense within the repeat offender statute. This crime would be punishable with a \$10,000 fine and/or a maximum prison term of five years.

**ID Theft Task Force (HB3244 HD1 SD2 CD1, Act 140):** The bill better protects Hawai`i’s citizens from identity theft by changing the name of the Hawai`i

Anti-Phishing Task Force to the Identity Theft Task Force and expanding its responsibilities to include prevention of identity theft.

The bill signing ceremony was held in conjunction with the Older Americans Recognition Luncheon at Washington Place in recognition of the fact that senior citizens are increasingly becoming targets of identity theft.

Identity theft is the number one concern among consumers contacting the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and it is the fastest growing crime today. Honolulu Police Department reports receiving 400 identity theft cases per month on O`ahu.

According to the FTC, Hawai`i cases of identity theft rose 265 percent from 2001 to 2005, resulting in millions of dollars of losses to consumers.

For more information about the State's efforts to protect residents from identity theft, visit the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Identity Theft Web site at: [idtheft.hawaii.gov](http://idtheft.hawaii.gov) or call the DCCA ID Theft Hotline: 587-3222. A list of tips on how consumers can protect themselves against identity theft is attached.

Neighbor island residents can call the following numbers followed by 7-3222 and the # sign:

Kaua`i: 274-3141

Maui: 984-2400

Hawai`i: 974-4000

Lana`i & Moloka`i: 1-800-468-4644

To read tips to guard against identity theft, please click [here](#).

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