



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
Office of Consumer Protection

DCCA News Release

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STATE SUES L'URAKU RESTAURANT FOR FAILING TO REFUND CUSTOMERS FOR UNUSED GIFT CERTIFICATES

HONOLULU -- The State's Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) announced today that it has filed suit against the owners and operators of the now-closed L'Uraku restaurant, Chikara Yanigiya and World Hawaii, Inc.

The suit, filed in the First Circuit Court of the State of Hawaii, alleges that Yanigiya and World Hawaii Inc. violated the state's gift certificate law when it sold certificates with expiration dates of less than two years, sold certificates to customers up to the date of its closure in February 2007, without disclosing that it was going to close, and refused to provide refunds to purchasers.

"If a company closes, it still has an obligation to its patrons," explained OCP Executive Director Stephen Levins. "It's just not fair for a business to tell its customers who purchased gift certificates that they are out of luck. We are suing the defendants because we believe they failed to comply with Hawaii law."

Violation of Hawaii's gift certificate law subjects offending parties to fines ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 per violation. Any L'Uraku customers who purchased gift certificates and have not filed a complaint with the state's Office of Consumer Protection may call 587-3222, or toll-free at 1-800-394-1902.

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