



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
Office of Consumer Protection
DCCA News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 9, 2003

**STATE OBTAINS RESTRAINING
ORDER AGAINST MAINLINE AIRWAYS**

(Honolulu) -The State of Hawaii Office of Consumer Protection announced today that it has obtained a restraining order against a Pennsylvania company claiming to operate an airline between Honolulu, Hawaii and Los Angeles, California.

State Circuit Court Judge Eden Elizabeth Hifo signed the Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) on Friday. The Order prohibits Mainline Airways and its Chief Executive Officer, Luke R. Thompson, from selling tickets to consumers and collecting money before they are authorized to do so by applicable Federal and State law.

The order was sought by the Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) after its investigation revealed that Mainline had failed to take any of the necessary steps to operate, including filing an application with the Federal Aviation Administration or satisfying the legal requirements to operate as a Charter Tour Operator or Travel Agency under Hawaii State law.

Since early Spring 2003 Mainline has offered consumers \$89 and \$99 introductory discount fares to and from Honolulu to LAX for flights departing in July 2003. Mainline has not given any indication that it will be in any position to comply with its representations. It has no legal authority to operate.

(more)

Director Mark Recktenwald of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs in announcing the TRO stated: "It takes more than a web site to start an airline. From the evidence gathered thus far it does not appear that Mainline has much more than that. We have sought this order to prevent Mainline from continuing to take consumers money unless it can show that it is fully capable of meeting all applicable legal requirements."

OCP's lawsuit, filed in the First Circuit Court of the State of Hawaii, alleges that Defendants Mainline and Thompson engaged in unfair or deceptive trade practices by misrepresenting their authority to sell fares, their ability to fly, and their air carrier status. The lawsuit seeks restitution for the consumers injured by Defendants' actions, civil penalties for their violations of law and an order barring the company and its owners from future deceptive and illegal acts.

OCP's investigation has revealed that hundreds of consumers may have purchased tickets from Mainline. Anyone who has purchased a ticket from Mainline should contact the Office of Consumer Protection at 586-2653.

For further information, please contact: Stephen Levins of the Department's Office of Consumer Protection at 586-2636.

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