



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
Office of Consumer Protection

DCCA News Release

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DCCA FILES SUIT AGAINST THE HAWAII COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

HONOLULU – The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) today sued the Hawaii College of Pharmacy for alleged unfair and deceptive business practices.

The suit against Pacific Educational Services Company, a Nevada corporation (dba the Hawaii College of Pharmacy) is a result of an investigation conducted by the Office of Consumer Protection (OCP). The suit also names Denise A. Criswell, president and chief executive officer and chairman of the board of directors of PES, and David C. Monroe, secretary and director of PES.

The complaint alleges the college misled students about the accreditation process. The lawsuit further alleges numerous statutory violations of Hawaii law, including failure to make statutory disclosures, failure to produce records, documents and information, and illegal acceptance of payments.

About 240 students have already paid \$28,000 in annual tuition for a three-year doctorate program. The college, which has already collected nearly \$7 million, has been unable to obtain accreditation despite assurances to student that it was on track.

“The school opened without going through the normal accreditation process, and we are extremely concerned that the students may have been misled” explained OCP Executive Director Stephen Levins. “Without accreditation, the students will be unable to take the pharmacy licensing exam, which is required by the state and many other states to work as a pharmacist.”

“We are asking the court to intervene to prevent further violations, impose civil penalties, and award the victims full restitution,” said DCCA Director Mark Recktenwald.

The complaint is posted in its entirety on DCCA’s website at <http://www.hawaii.gov/dcca/areas/ocp/udqi/lawsuits/hicp/>.

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