



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
Office of Consumer Protection

## DCCA News Release

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### **DCCA WARNS HAWAII CONSUMERS ABOUT AN IDENTITY THEFT SCAM**

HONOLULU – The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) is issuing a warning for consumers to beware of a man who is posing as an investigator with the State's Office of Consumer Protection.

On August 2, a male consumer received a telephone call from a person, who identified himself as Dawson Brown from the Honolulu Consumer Protection Office. Mr. Brown told the consumer that telemarketers from Canada could access his checking account without his approval and withdraw funds. Mr. Brown read an account number to the consumer and asked him to verify it.

After the consumer verified his checking account number, he was advised to contact a company called Privacy Management Group to obtain additional information regarding this possible scam. The consumer tried to call Privacy Management Group at the number provided by Mr. Brown (1-888-822-2022), but the number was no longer in service.

"Do not under any circumstances provide your financial information to anyone unless you know the person with whom you are dealing," said OCP Executive Director Stephen Levins. "Just because someone says they are from a bank or from a government agency doesn't mean it's true."

The Department wants to remind consumers to beware of callers who claim they need to verify your personal information. "This may be a trick to get you to reveal additional information about yourself that will help them steal from you," said DCCA Director Mark Recktenwald.

For more information on identity theft log onto [www.idtheft.hawaii.gov](http://www.idtheft.hawaii.gov) or call the Office of Consumer Protection at 808-587-3222.

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