



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
Office of Consumer Protection

## DCCA News Release

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GOVERNOR

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### **DCCA SUCCESSFULLY SUES OPERATOR OF A SUMMER MAUI CAMP**

HONOLULU – The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs has obtained a judgment against the former operator of a Maui summer camp.

In July 2004, Raymond L. Thomas abruptly closed Aloha Adventure Camps in Makawao and left dozens of campers stranded. The campers did not receive the services they paid for or any refunds. Thomas left the islands without leaving a forwarding address or any information. His whereabouts remain unknown.

The Department's Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) filed a lawsuit against Thomas and his corporate entities in Maui Circuit Court. The lawsuit sought restitution for the families who lost money after the camp closed, civil penalties of up to \$10,000 for each violation of state consumer protection laws, and attorneys' fees.

On March 30, 2005, the Second Circuit Court entered a final judgment and a permanent injunction against Thomas, Aloha Adventure Camps and the Hawaiian Cultural Preservation Association.

The judgment orders the defendants to refund consumers \$46,378.96, awards \$250,000 in civil penalties to the State, and prevents Thomas and his corporate entities from operating in the State of Hawaii in violation of State consumer protection laws.

“The Court’s decision to prevent Thomas from committing future fraudulent, deceptive and illegal practices in Hawaii is absolutely necessary to protect consumers,” said Stephen Levins, executive director of OCP.

“We believe the families of campers who lost thousands of dollars due to Mr. Thomas’ misconduct deserve proper compensation,” said DCCA director Mark Recktenwald. “While the defendant’s whereabouts remain unknown, we will do everything in our power to try and locate him and obtain compensation for the victims.”

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