



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
Business Registration Division

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH
DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 586-2850
Fax: (808) 586-2856

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 23, 2009

HAWAII SECURITIES COMMISSIONER FOCUSES ON FRAUD PREVENTION DURING AMERICA SAVES WEEK

HONOLULU – The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (DCCA) Office of the Securities Commissioner is joining various government and financial agencies to raise awareness about savings during America Saves Week, which runs from February 22 to March 1.

The Office of the Securities Commissioner and its America Saves Week partners encourage Hawaii residents to be part of America Saves Week by taking the time to learn more about saving, investing, and most importantly, safeguarding assets from investment fraud.

“In these difficult economic times, it is still true that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” said Securities Commissioner Tung Chan. “Taking the time to ask key questions about an investment can be the difference between keeping your money safe and losing it to fraud. America Saves Week is a great time to find out more about ways to take care of your financial health.”

As part of America Saves Week, the DCCA will have an information display on the 2nd floor of the DCCA building (King Kalakaua Building, 335 Merchant Street). Free investor education materials for interested individuals will be available.

The Office of the Securities Commissioner recommends these investment fraud prevention tips:

- Understand the investment before you buy. Ask questions.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Check out the securities registration of anyone selling investments. It's easy to do by calling our State office at 586-2722.
- Take your time. Don't give in to high-pressure sales tactics.

If you have been a victim of investment fraud, contact our office toll-free at 1-877-HI SCAMS or visit our website at www.investing.hawaii.gov to report fraud.

The Office of the Securities Commissioner is pleased to join the sponsor of America Saves Week, the Consumer Federation of America, to promote savings during this week. Other partners include the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA), Federal Reserve Bank, United Way of America and the U.S. Department of Defense.

To learn more about America Saves Week visit www.americasavesweek.org.

###

For more information, contact:

Christine Hirasa

Public Information Officer

Phone: 586-2622

Email: chirasa@dcca.hawaii.gov