

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS Division of Consumer Advocacy

DCCA News Release

LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR

> MARK E. RECKTENWALD DIRECTOR Phone: (808) 586-2850 Fax: (808) 586-2856

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 6, 2006

CONSUMER ADVOCATE EXTENDS EDUCATION OUTREACH TO KAUAI

HONOLULU – The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (DCCA) Division of Consumer Advocacy (DCA) offers Kauai residents a chance to learn about public utility issues on April 7 and 8 at the Kukui Grove Shopping Center in Lihue. An information booth will be set up on Friday from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M., and on Saturday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Education specialists will be available to answer questions and distribute educational materials to the general public.

"This visit to Kauai is part of our continuing efforts to educate consumers throughout the state about the sensible use of public utility services," said Consumer Advocate John Cole. "I hope that as people are out and about this weekend, they will stop by and take a look at what we have to offer."

State Representative Hermina Morita, who is the chair of the House Energy & Environmental Protection Committee said she is very pleased with the DCCA's efforts to be more involved at the community level. "I think what they're doing is terrific, especially the fact that they're doing more on the neighbor islands."

DCA was established to protect and represent consumer interests before the State Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and other local and federal agencies with regulatory jurisdiction over telecommunications, transportation, power generation and distribution, private water and wastewater facilities, and other similar public utility services. The division represents utility customers as a whole, statewide, as opposed to a single customer or select group. Additional information about the State's Division of Consumer Advocacy may be found at <u>http://www.hawaii.gov/dcca/areas/dca/</u>.

###

For more information, contact: Christine Hirasa Public Information Officer Phone: 586-2622 Email: chirasa@dcca.hawaii.gov