

DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau

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Revised News Release 2023-03

**Hawai'i Department of Taxation Warns Taxpayers
Regarding "Distrain Warrant" and Other Scams**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2023

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i Department of Taxation (Department) is cautioning taxpayers about recent activity in Hawai'i involving tax-related scams, including phishing attempts in the form of text messages, mailed letters, social media messages, or emails.

Hawai'i taxpayers have reported receiving messages and letters asking to click a link or call a phone number. It might be an intimidating letter about "Distrain Warrants," using messages such as "seizure or forfeiture may be imminent due to non-payment of taxes," or letting the taxpayer know they can claim money. A sample "distrain warrant" is provided below. These are not official letters, emails or texts from the **State of Hawai'i Department of Taxation**, which does not issue "Distrain Warrants," send text messages, post social media messages about taxes owed, or send unsolicited emails.

Do not reply to any correspondence from the "Hawai'i Department of Revenue" or "Tax Assessment Securities." They have no association with government in Hawai'i—it is a scam. Do not click on the link, open an attachment, or call the phone number; they are just trying to capture your personal information, solicit business, or take your money.

If you have any questions or would like to confirm the legitimacy of any tax notice, you should contact the Department directly using contact information listed on its website:

<https://tax.hawaii.gov/contact/>

Tax Assessment Securities
Honolulu County
TAX GROUP SEIZURE UNIT B- [REDACTED]
Notice No. [REDACTED]

DISTRAINT WARRANT
Tax Assessment Securities Public Judgment Records

[REDACTED]
Honolulu, HI 96814 [REDACTED]

Office Hours: MON - FRI 6:00AM - 6:00PM
(800) 453-7924

Date of this Notice: 5/19/2023
Notice No. [REDACTED]

SEIZURE OR FORFEITURE MAY BE IMMINENT DUE TO NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES

This warrant has been issued against [REDACTED] due to non-payment of a seriously delinquent tax debt. The liability has not been paid. This letter serves as a final judgmental notice.

The State Of Hawaii can now take enforcement action such as seizing Social Security benefits, garnishing wages and bank accounts to satisfy the outstanding debt owed. If no action is taken by 5/29/2023 the State Of Hawaii may revoke benefits, suspend licenses, and levy or offset any tax refund gained this year.

Your debt must be satisfied in full or settled to remove the levy. To avoid enforcement, call within fifteen (15) days of receiving this notice. Failure to respond may result in additional penalties, fees and interest.

In the event any amount other than costs recovered shall be credited against the tax liability for the collection of which such levy is made. This is not a bill. As a Taxpayer, you have the right to pay only the amount of tax legally due.


Total Amount Due: \$ [REDACTED]

Penalties, fees and interest are unequal periodic amounts calculated and applied by the State Of Hawaii

If you believe these balances are incorrect or wish to dispute any unjust penalties call (800) 453-7924 immediately.

We look forward to hearing from you immediately, and hope to assist you in fulfilling your responsibility as a taxpayer.

Enclosures: Copy of letter [REDACTED] Envelope [REDACTED]



Resolution Officer Gamble

FDDBR-1010

Sample scam letter received by a taxpayer

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Media Contact:

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