

Money Transfer & Sweepstakes Scams



When receiving a call from a stranger, be very cautious and do not give any personal information over the phone (Social Security number, credit cards, bank accounts, etc.). Legitimate businesses will never ask you for this information over the phone.

In a money transfer scam, a stranger will call and claim that they are representing a law firm in another country. The stranger will then tell you that your family member or relative has been arrested. To have your relative bailed out, you will be instructed to go to a money transfer institution (like Western Union) and send money. Before you do this, contact other family members to verify the status of the family member in question.



DO NOT SEND MONEY TO STRANGERS.



In the sweepstakes scam, a stranger will call and claim they represent a lottery or contest organization. The caller will say that you have won the sweepstakes and may claim your prize money. However, before you can claim your prize money, the caller will tell you that you have to pay for the taxes on the prize, usually around \$3,000. While paying \$3,000 to get a much larger prize sounds like a great deal, it's not. It's a scam.

Who can I call?

For suspicious circumstances:



Call 9-1-1



**Elder Abuse Justice Unit
Office of the Prosecuting Attorney**

1060 Richards Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

(808) 768-6452



**BBB of Hawaii, Inc.,
Better Business Bureau**

1132 Bishop Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

(808) 536-6956

www.hawaii.bbb.org
info@hawaii.bbb.org

Senior Scam Hotline

(808) 628-3950 or 1-888-333-1593

**Aging & Disability Resource Center
(ADRC)**

Hawaii Executive Office on Aging

www.hawaiiadrc.org

(808) 643-ADRC (2372)



An important message from the
HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT

Car Accident Scams



Be aware of this scam when driving in a shopping center parking lot. You will be approached by a stranger who accuses you of hitting their vehicle. They will then show you damages on their car. They will tell you that your vehicle caused the damages even if the damages appear to be old or from another incident. After showing you the damage, the stranger will demand that you pay them cash for the repair cost.



DO NOT PAY THE STRANGER.

If you pay the stranger, they will often demand more money once they know you are willing to pay the initial amount. If you refuse to pay, the stranger may threaten to call the police and tell you that your auto insurance rates will go up if a police report is made. The stranger is trying to discourage you from calling the police.



If you are involved in an accident or are unsure if you caused an accident, **call 9-1-1**. Tell the officer what happened and let the officer do the accident investigation.

Home Improvement Scams



Home improvement scams are common islandwide. A stranger will approach you at your home and offer to do a variety of different home repairs such as tree trimming, roofing, or painting. Often, the price of the repairs will be too good to be true - that's because it's a scam. The biggest clue that you are about to be scammed is that the stranger will ask for the money in advance. They will tell you that the money is needed to buy supplies like roofing material, paint, and other home repair products. Once you've given them the advanced money, that will be the last time that you see them.



DO NOT GIVE THE STRANGER ANY MONEY IN ADVANCE.

To avoid being scammed, ask the stranger for a business card, work phone number, and other identification. Get as much information as possible. It's also a good idea to call around and do some research before handing over any money. Also know that most legitimate home repair businesses do not go door to door to solicit customers.



Auto Repair Scams

Auto repair scams commonly happen in two places: public parking lots or your residence. You will be approached by a stranger who offers to repair minor damage on your vehicle. These repairs could include fixing dents, rust, cracked tail lights, or minor painting. The initial quote or estimate will usually be very



inexpensive. If you agree, the stranger will work on your vehicle. When the job is done, however, you will find that the quality of the repair work is terrible. You will then be pressured into paying, and don't be surprised if the initial price has gone up. The stranger will often ask for more money. Or the stranger may start working on your car before you have agreed to the cost. Once the job is done, you will be pressured to pay for repairs that you didn't agree to. As before, the quality of the work will be poor.



When confronted by a stranger offering "cheap" auto body repair services, it's better to decline. If the stranger persists or starts working, **call 9-1-1**.



Remember that most legitimate auto repair businesses do not go door to door and do not solicit customers in public parking lots.