

## How to Report Fraud, Waste and Abuse

### Report Fraud, Waste and Abuse

If you have reason to believe that Maui Economic Opportunity, its employee's board members or clients have engaged in fraud, waste or abuse of government funds, immediately notify the MEO CEO or Board President. Contact information can be found on our Website.

In addition:

The Department of the Attorney General and the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission are working together to try to identify fraud, waste, abuse, or other violations involving government funds and/or government workers.

If you suspect that a government official in Hawai'i is engaged in any kind of fraud, waste, or abuse of position, please fill out our complaint form or contact us, confidentially, at 587-0000 or [anti-fraud@hawaii.gov](mailto:anti-fraud@hawaii.gov).

If you have a complaint about fraud that does not involve the government or government funds – for example, if you believe you have been the victim of a scam – please see the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs "Fraud Prevention and Resource Guide," available at <https://cca.hawaii.gov/sec/files/2015/10/Fraud-Guide-2.pdf>.

**FRAUD** is deception intended to result in financial or personal gain, including misrepresentation of facts, making false statements, or concealment of information. Some examples of fraud may include:

- Submitting false pricing information, or knowing approval of expenditures based on false information
- Falsifying procurement records, disposal records, overtime records, or leave records
- Knowingly charging or paying for goods and services that were not provided
- Knowingly applying for multiple grants for the same set of expenses ("double-dipping")
- Falsifying or eligibility in order to qualify for government grants or contracts

**WASTE** is the thoughtless or careless expenditure, mismanagement, or abuse of resources to the detriment (or potential detriment) of the government, including incurring unnecessary costs resulting from inefficient or ineffective practices, systems, or controls. Some examples of waste may include:

- Ignoring competitive bidding requirements when required
- Buying overpriced equipment from a favored vendor
- Buying unnecessary goods or services

**ABUSE** is defined as excessive or improper use of a thing, or to use something in a manner contrary to the natural or legal rules for its use. Some examples of abuse may include:

- Steering government contracts towards friends or family
- Asking for, or receiving, gifts from vendors/contractors
- Issuing a request for bids with specifications written by a vendor, so only that vendor can meet the specifications

Report Fraud, Waste, and Abuse: [https://ethics.hawaii.gov/fraud\\_complaint/](https://ethics.hawaii.gov/fraud_complaint/)

### Report Fraud

If someone believes they are a victim of a government grant scam, they may file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission online, or call toll-free:

- 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357)
- TTY: 1-866-653-4261

### **HHS Fraud**

They can also report grant-related scam attempts to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Fraud Hotline at 1-800-447-8477.

### **Benefits Fraud may reported to the Attorney General**

<https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud/>

In addition to submitting your complaint online, individuals may also forward their tip via one of the channels below:

#### **Phone**

1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477)

#### **TTY**

1-800-377-4950

#### **Mail**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of Inspector General  
ATTN: OIG HOTLINE OPERATIONS  
P.O. Box 23489  
Washington, DC 20026