
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INFORMATION PRIVACY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Identity theft affects millions of Americans
2 and costs more than \$54 billion each year. The legislature
3 finds that unauthorized disclosures of personal information are
4 a leading source of identity theft. To mitigate the effects of
5 these security breaches, the legislature passed Act 135, Session
6 Laws of Hawaii 2006, which requires consumers and businesses to
7 be notified when a security breach occurs. However, Act 135
8 required only limited information in the notice of a security
9 breach and did not provide for any consumer or small business
10 remedies.

11 The purpose of this Act is to require that victims of a
12 security breach receive more specific information about the
13 breach and how to respond to it. This Act also establishes a
14 private cause of action for consumers and businesses that are
15 victims of security breaches to pursue statutory or actual
16 damages, whichever is greater, and includes as an element of
17 damages the cost of services to mitigate future damages, such as
18 credit monitoring and identity theft insurance.



1 SECTION 2. Section 487N-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
3 and to read as follows:

4 "Identity theft" means the unauthorized use of another
5 person's identifying information to obtain credit, goods,
6 services, money, or property, or to commit an unlawful act."

7 SECTION 3. Section 487N-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by amending the definition of "security breach" to read
9 as follows:

10 "Security breach" means an incident of unauthorized
11 [access to and acquisition] disclosure of unencrypted or
12 unredacted records or data containing personal information
13 [where illegal use of the personal information has occurred, or
14 is reasonably likely to occur and that creates a risk of harm to
15 a person]. Any incident of unauthorized [access to and
16 acquisition] disclosure of encrypted records or data containing
17 personal information along with the confidential process or key
18 constitutes a security breach. Good faith acquisition of
19 personal information by an employee or agent of the business for
20 a legitimate purpose is not a security breach; provided that the
21 personal information is not used for a purpose other than a



1 lawful purpose of the business and is not subject to further
2 unauthorized disclosure."

3 SECTION 4. Section 487N-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

5 "(d) The notice shall be clear and conspicuous. The
6 notice shall include a description of the following:

7 (1) The incident [~~in general terms~~], including the
8 distribution medium and method of the security breach,
9 and the duration of time the information was exposed;

10 (2) The type of personal information that was subject to
11 the unauthorized access and acquisition;

12 (3) The types of fraudulent activities that could result
13 pursuant to a breach of that nature, and any remedial
14 actions that the individual can take;

15 (4) A statement of the individual's legal rights pursuant
16 to the breach, and the legal responsibilities of the
17 business or government, if any;

18 [~~3~~] (5) The general acts of the business or government
19 agency to protect the personal information from
20 further unauthorized access;

21 [~~4~~] (6) A telephone number that the person may call for
22 further information and assistance, if one exists; and



1 [~~(5)~~] (7) Advice that directs the person to remain vigilant
2 by reviewing account statements and monitoring free
3 credit reports."

4 SECTION 5. Section 487N-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

6 "(b) In addition to any penalty provided for in subsection
7 (a), ~~[any business that violates any provision of this chapter~~
8 ~~shall be liable to the injured party in an amount equal to the~~
9 ~~sum of any actual damages sustained by the injured party as a~~
10 ~~result of the violation. The court in any action brought under~~
11 ~~this section may award reasonable attorneys' fees to the~~
12 ~~prevailing party.] any person who is affected by a security~~
13 ~~breach that creates a risk of harm of identity theft may sue for~~
14 ~~damages sustained by the person. If a judgment is obtained by~~
15 ~~the plaintiff, the court shall award the plaintiff a sum of not~~
16 ~~less than \$ _____ or threefold damages sustained by the~~
17 ~~plaintiff, whichever sum is greater, and reasonable attorney's~~
18 ~~fees and costs. Damages sustained by the person shall include~~
19 ~~actions taken to mitigate injury from future identity theft,~~
20 ~~including actual or future purchase of credit report monitoring~~
21 ~~and identity theft insurance. No such action may be brought~~
22 against a government agency."



Report Title:

Identity Theft; Cause of Action

Description:

Provides a private cause of action for a victim who, as a result of an information security breach, suffers a risk of harm from identity theft. Amends the type of notice that must be given to a person affected by a security breach. Defines identity theft.

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