

FROM THE OFFICE OF

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG

East Honolulu Community Newsletter

MARCH 2018



Lying to the Honolulu Department of Planning & Permitting (DPP)

SB 2092 adds knowingly making a false statement to a county inspector a crime within the offense of unsworn falsification to authorities.

Complaints concerning building and zoning violations, from illegal vacation rentals to monster homes, are some of the most common complaints to government and at community meetings. Many of these activities are already illegal, but enforcement is difficult. By expressly making lying to county inspectors a crime and increasing the penalties for doing so compared to other categories of falsification, these bills seek to give legal support to inspectors who can insist that property owners be truthful about their activities.

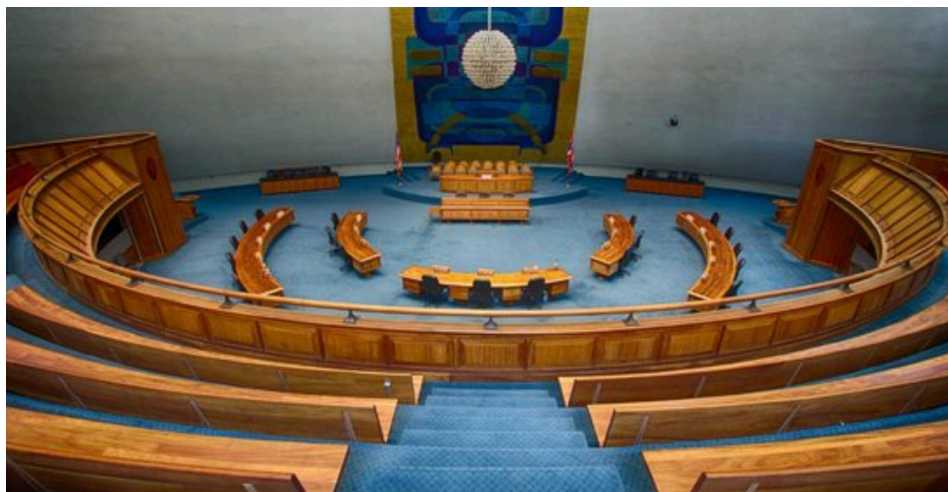
“The real issue when it comes to our land use laws is enforcement. Often, landowners just lie to inspectors because the penalties for doing so are so minor or unlikely,” said Sen. Chang. “We hope the

criminal penalties in these bills will make landowners take their compliance with the law seriously.”

On February 13, 2018, SB 2092 had its first hearing and passed out of committee unamended. SB 2092 was introduced by Senator Chang in order to help DPP inspectors during their inspection on monster homes or illegal vacation rentals.

SB 2092 is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Other bills that Senator Chang has introduced:

- SB 2089 Youth Commission
- SB 2497 Section 8 Housing Insurance Program
- SB 2501 Safe zones
- SB 2502 Mobile clinics
- SB 2503 Permanent absentee voting
- SB 2087 Rescue tubes
- SB 2498 Polystyrene foam container ban



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► **HANDY CONTACTS**

Pothole Hotline
808-768-7777

Abandoned Vehicles
808-733-2530

Building Permit
808-768-5555

Trash Collection
808-768-3200

Street Light Repair
808-768-5300

Lawyer Referral & Information Service
808-537-9140

Current Bill Status
capitol.hawaii.gov

IN THE COMMUNITY



HOPE STREET FELLOW

February 9, 2018 ▲ Lory Peroff, a teacher at Waikiki Elementary and a HOPE Street Fellow, shadowed Senator Chang throughout the morning as part of her fellowship.



SECONDARY STUDENT CONFERENCE

January 26, 2018 ▲ Senator Chang welcomed students from Kalani and Kaiser High Schools participating in the Secondary Student Conference to his office to the issues that are important to them.



CIVICS IS SEXY

February 10, 2018 ▲ Senator Chang and other legislators participated in "Civics is Sexy," a free public workshop sponsored by the Surfrider Foundation.

YOUR CONCERNS

Dcca Warns Public To Beware Of Illegal Pyramid Investment Schemes

Honolulu - The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (DCCA) Commissioner of Securities wants to remind the public to remain vigilant and beware of illegal pyramid investment schemes.

In its purest form, a pyramid investment scheme is a plan or program in which people invest in the right to offer the investment to others. What distinguishes these schemes from legitimate investments is that a pyramid concentrates mainly on the quick profits to be earned by recruiting others to invest. Members make money by offering this right to new investors, down the pyramid, who in turn offer the right to those ever lower in the chain. The scheme is called a "pyramid" because the structure grows like a pyramid as each new level of participants must be greater than the previous level for the program to sustain itself. There is no legitimate product, business, or investment, just money changing hands and newer investor money being paid to older investors.

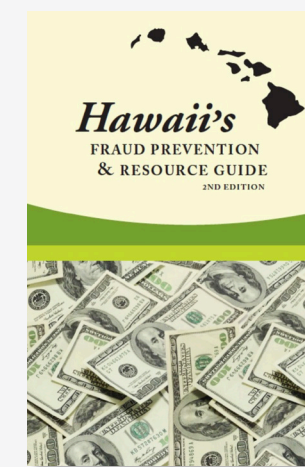
The pyramid eventually collapses, as the ever-increasing number of new participants, who are

trying to recover their initial investment, attempt to recruit the ever-decreasing number of prospects available in a particular area. Later participants lose their money with no chance of collecting, when the program reaches the point where further recruitment becomes impossible.

The Hawaii Securities Commissioner strongly cautions Hawaii residents to be cautious and not become involved in any investment which appears to be an illegal pyramid scheme. Many illegal pyramids attempt to establish their legitimacy by purporting to characterize the investment as a "donation" or "blessing."

Under State securities laws, interests in a pyramid investment scheme can constitute a "security." Therefore, participation in a pyramid scheme may be a violation of state securities laws. DCCA's Securities Enforcement Branch (SEB) receives and investigates complaints regarding potential violations of Hawaii securities laws and prosecutes securities fraud as well as other securities law violations.

Anyone who has been solicited to invest in a pyramid scheme or who may otherwise have information regarding a pyramid scheme is urged to contact the SEB at **808-586-2740** or toll free at **1-877-HI-SCAMS**.



The DCCA is providing everyone with their Fraud Prevention & Resource Guide to better inform the public about ways they may fall victim to various practices of fraud. An online resource can be found on found here: cca.hawaii.gov/sec/files/2015/10/Fraud-Guide-2.pdf. If you would like to receive a physical hard copy, please contact our office at **808-586-8420**.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



New Capital Improvement Project

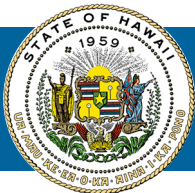
The Governor has released \$500,000 of funding to Aina Haina Elementary School to finance the design and construction for new and/or renovated ADA restrooms for public meeting attendees.

State of Hawaii: Language Access & The Law

Hawaii has one of the highest per-capita rates of limited English proficient persons (LEP) in the nation. In 2006, to ensure meaningful access to services, programs and activities by LEP persons, Hawaii became the first state in the nation to pass a comprehensive language access law that removes language barriers to State and State-funded services. Hawaii's law mirrors a similar federal law.

The same law also establishes the Office of Language Access (OLA). OLA works to ensure that persons who do not speak, read, write, or understand English are able to access services, programs and activities provided by: State government agencies, courts, and schools; and State-funded organizations, including medical and social service providers. OLA also provides oversight and central coordination to State agencies, as well as technical assistance to State and State-funded entities in the implementation of the law.

For more information on the Office of Language Access visit: <http://www.health.hawaii.gov/ola/> or call 808-586-8730.



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