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OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

August 16, 2022

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-first State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Thirty-first State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Speaker Saiki:

For your information and consideration, the Department of Budget and Finance is transmitting a copy of the Report to the Legislature on the limited data exposure associated with the Unclaimed Property on-line search application as required by Section 487N-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, this report may be viewed electronically at:

<https://budget.hawaii.gov/budget/reports-to-the-legislature/department-of-budget-finance/>

Sincerely,

/S/

CRAIG K. HIRAI
Director of Finance

Attachment

c: Legislative Reference Bureau

Subject: Report to the Legislature on Limited Data Exposure: Department of Budget and Finance, Unclaimed Property Search Application

Discovery of Data Exposure: July 28, 2022

Location of Data Exposure: Department of Budget and Finance, Unclaimed Property Search Application

Nature of Data Exposure: A URL Leading to a PDF file or webpage exposed Personal Information

Incident Description:

On July 28, 2022, a member of the public contacted the Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) to report that they performed an internet search in connection with an Unclaimed Property Form (“Form”). The search result included a URL leading to a PDF file of a completed Form containing Personal Information (“PII”). The B&F staff promptly reported the issue to management and an investigation was initiated to determine the root cause of the issue, scope of the PII disclosure, ensure containment, and remediated the underlying problem.

As part of the preliminary investigation, it was confirmed that a feature to generate a URL of each completed Form was introduced during the redesign of the Unclaimed Property Search Application (Application) launched on August 16, 2021. The URLs for some, but not all of the completed Forms, were indexed by search engines. The URLs generated were complex and highly unlikely to be deduced.

The B&F’s investigation of this matter is ongoing. However, a preliminary review has identified individuals who had PII indexed by search engines. Google and Bing are the predominant search engines and have been requested to remove the indexed URLs of the individuals. We have confirmed that Google has complied with our request, and we are continuing to work and follow up with Bing to also remove these indexed URLs. The Department is currently aware of 12 individuals whose PII may have been exposed and we have initiated the necessary steps to notify and provide information to assist these individuals.

In accordance with H.R.S. § 487N-1 et, seq., B&F has sent notification letters to all affected individuals. If there are any additional material facts that are uncovered the Department will provide a subsequent report to the Legislature.

Remediation:

The issue that resulted in the reported problem was immediately remediated on July 29, 2022, the day following identification of the issue. In addition, a design review of the Unclaimed Property Form Application and processes is being conducted and eliminating the collection and/or storage of sensitive information on the Form and the Application will be our priority.