

# Kūi Kā Lono

The Quarterly Member Newsletter of Kekaha Federal Credit Union  
July 2004

## Kekaha FCU helps to maximize student responsibility

**F**OR SCOT TSUCHIYAMA, Manager at Kekaha FCU, a recent news article about low test scores at Kekaha School made him wonder what could be done to help students in his community. Armed with a determination to make a difference, Tsuchiyama met with Kekaha School's Principal Billi Smith to develop ways Kekaha FCU could help students succeed in school.

Kekaha School is the only school in the community, which is dominated by low-income and



Kekaha School students learn responsibility and win great prizes!

immigrant families. The school found it difficult to motivate students to be responsible and communication between the school and parents was lacking.

Kekaha School Principal Billi Smith explained that each student has a Maximum Communication Journal – Max for short – that is the primary means of communication between the students, school, and home. The Max serves as a journal of class activities and homework and includes notes and notices from teachers and the school. Each student is required to have their parents read and sign their Max every week. Unfortunately, not many

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## New law aims to sink check float

**I**F YOU THINK you can get away with “floating” a check, think again. It’s tempting to write a share draft/check without actually having the funds in your account to cover it— “just yet.”

The Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act (Check 21) will cut the time it takes a check to clear from days to hours. So if you need to change your checking habits, do so before it’s too late.

Check 21 was signed into law on Oct. 28, 2003, and becomes effective Oct. 28, 2004. It’s designed to foster innovation and efficiency in the payments system by reducing some of the legal

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## Kekaha FCU partners with school

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students were able to accomplish this.

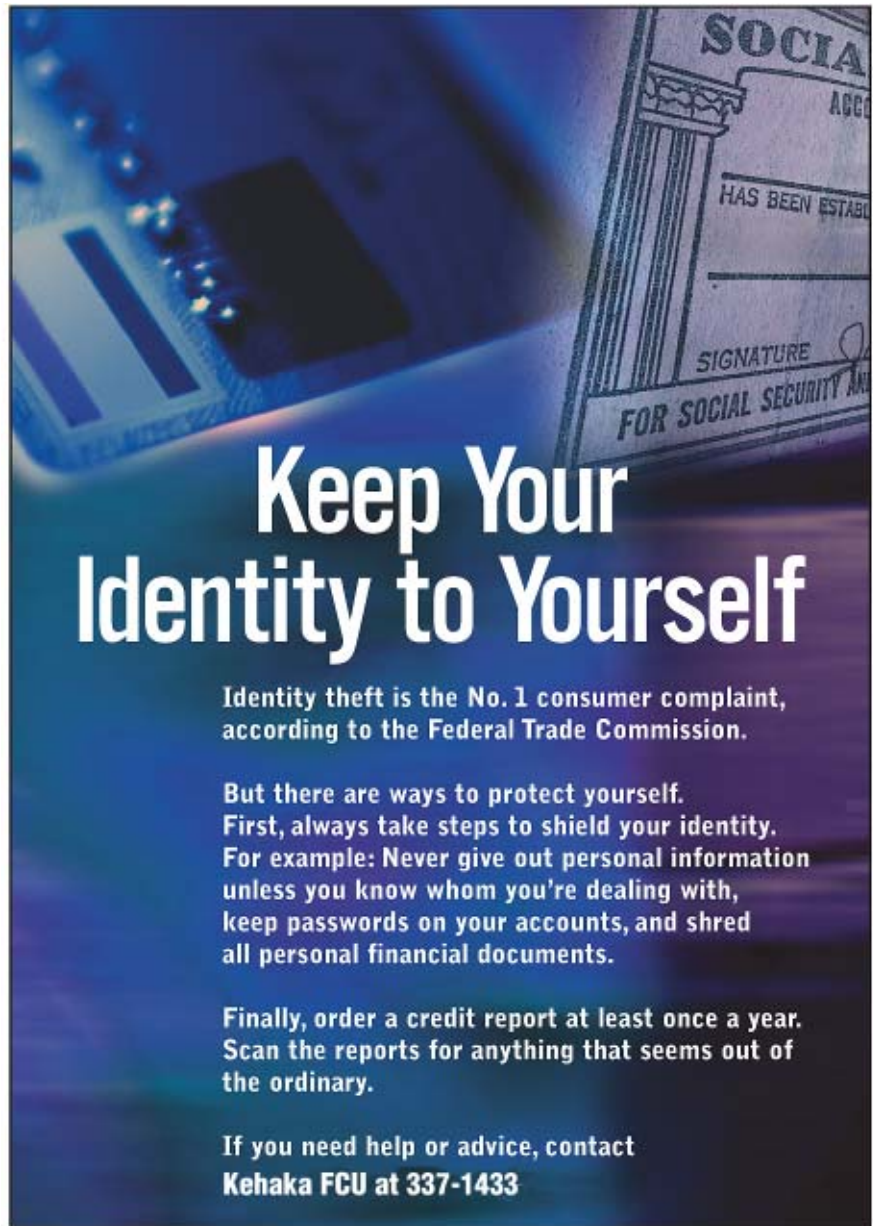
The solution the credit union offered to the school was an incentive program to encourage students to get their parents to read and sign their Max every week. This would encourage students to write in their Max and be responsible for having parents read and sign it. Based on six criteria that emphasize responsibility and respect, students earn chances to win prizes in monthly drawings.

Kekaha FCU donates money that Kekaha School uses to purchase prizes. Every month, the students get to see what kind of prizes are up for grabs. Boogie boards, CD and DVD players, movie passes, pizza dinners, and even a bicycle have been given away to deserving students.

While in the past, very few students had signed Max books, there is currently a 91 percent success rate. This translates into greater parental involvement and increased student pride. Even teachers get rewarded for 100 percent participation in achieving program criteria. Kekaha FCU donates corporate gift items such as duffle bags and folders to those teachers.

Each month, Kekaha School holds a celebration assembly where winning students are chosen and prizes are distributed.

"The celebration assemblies are fun and crazy," Principal Smith noted. "Parents are invited to attend the assemblies. The kids are excited and happy and are becoming more respon-



# Keep Your Identity to Yourself

Identity theft is the No. 1 consumer complaint, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

But there are ways to protect yourself. First, always take steps to shield your identity. For example: Never give out personal information unless you know whom you're dealing with, keep passwords on your accounts, and shred all personal financial documents.

Finally, order a credit report at least once a year. Scan the reports for anything that seems out of the ordinary.

If you need help or advice, contact  
**Kekaha FCU at 337-1433**

sible. Responsibility is a big value and our kids need to know that."

Smith envisions other programs that will still create excitement and encourage responsibility while weaning

students away from the tangible reward of prize giveaways.

Smith sees the success of its incentive program as just the beginning in a very fruitful partnership with Kekaha FCU.

## Erwin Wright receives Kekaha FCU scholarship

**K**EKAKA FCU IS pleased to announce it awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Erwin Wright, a senior at Waimea High School.



# Don't fall for these summer spending blunders

**I**T'S THAT TIME of year again. You're feeling carefree and in the mood to spend. MSN Money advises consumer to beware of the following summer spending blunders.

## Weddings

On average, there are 2.5 million weddings celebrated each year, many in the summer. If you're on the guest list, plan ahead and budget for gifts. If you see something on sale now, buy it.

## Graduations

From preschool to college, the graduation season can be expensive. Keep the gifts simple and age appropriate. A four-year old graduating from preschool won't want to wear an expensive flower lei. And practical gifts for the college-bound grad (such as rice cookers) are on sale year-round.

## Garage sales

Don't stop at a yard sale unless you're really looking for something.

## Credit cards

Consider leaving the credit cards at home. It's easy to use plastic, but your worst

nightmare could be paying for that summertime fun as Christmas shopping looms near. If you think you will need to use a credit card, come and talk to us at Kekaha FCU. Our credit card rates are very competitive!

## Check "floats" to sink under new law

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barriers to check truncation. Truncation means removing an original paper check from the check collection or return process, just as credit unions successfully have done for years. Supporters say it could reduce the cost of trucking and flying the paperwork cross-country by \$2 billion a year.

The law eases the electronic exchange of checks by making electronic check processing voluntary and not mandatory. The law mandates that all institutions accept a substitute check (the paper copy of an electronic check file), but doesn't mandate that all financial institutions accept electronic checks.

The bottom line: These changes should be transparent to you most of the time. If your checking habits need improvement, brush up—before the float sinks.

# Mechanical Repair Coverage now available

**Y**OU MAY HAVE the right vehicle, but do you have the right protection? Financial considerations do not end with the down payment and monthly loan payments. You need to consider your insurance protection. Are you insured enough?

Kekaha FCU is pleased to offer MEMBER'S CHOICE Mechanical Repair Coverage (MRC), which helps pay for covered repairs on your car when an unexpected breakdown occurs. For a few dollars a month, you can protect your vehicle and finances from expenses that could total hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

Purchasing MRC on a vehicle still covered by the manufacturer's warranty provides you with the most convenient, cost-effective way to ensure uninterrupted protection and peace of mind if you own the vehicle after the manufacturer's warranty expires.

If you're purchasing coverage for an eligible used vehicle no longer covered by a manufacturer's warranty, you'll have peace of mind in knowing you're protected from the cost and inconvenience of covered breakdowns.

The MRC plan is:

- Good at authorized automobile dealers or repair facilities in the U.S. and Canada

- Transferable if you sell your vehicle to a private party
- Cancelable at any time on a pro-rata basis
- Convenient with toll-free customer service and communications
- Hassle-free because the repair facility is paid directly by the plan
- Flexible, since you can choose the coverage and terms (months and miles) that match your vehicle and driving habits

Call Kekaha FCU today at 337-1433 for a quote on MEMBER'S CHOICE Mechanical Repair Coverage today!

Kekaha Federal Credit Union  
P.O. Box 609

Kekaha, Hawaii 96752-0609

Phone: 337-1433

Fax: 337-9591

E-mail: [info@kekahafcu.org](mailto:info@kekahafcu.org)

Website: [www.kekahafcu.org](http://www.kekahafcu.org)

Hours:

Mon-Fri

8:00am - 4:00pm

Scot Tsuchiyama  
Manager/Treasurer

Owen Moe  
President



**KEKAHA** FEDERAL  
CREDIT UNION

## Protection fills in the GAP

**T**HERE COULD BE a big difference between what your insurance will pay and what you owe on your loan. Cars depreciate by thousands of dollars as soon as you drive it off the dealer's lot. If your car is stolen, accidentally damaged beyond repair, or otherwise declared a total loss, you are still liable to pay the difference—the "gap" between your insurer's settlement and your loan balance. This gap will come out of your pocket for a vehicle that for all practical purposes, no longer exists.

Enter the GAP – Guaranteed Asset Protection from MEMBER'S CHOICE. GAP is low-cost coverage that pays the potentially high-cost difference between your insurance settlement and your loan balance on items directly related to the purchase of your vehicle. For just a few dollars a month, GAP can save you from making loan payments on a vehicle that's beyond repair or stolen and not recovered.

You can sign up for GAP when applying for your auto loan at Kekaha FCU. The amount of GAP can be rolled into your monthly loan payment. And GAP is fully refundable if you cancel the coverage within the first 60 days and is partially refundable anytime thereafter.

Protect your family, your car, and your credit rating with MEMBER'S CHOICE GAP protection. Call Kekaha FCU for more information at 337-1433.

## Kekaha Federal Credit Union Privacy Notice

Kekaha FCU is committed to providing financial products and services to meet your needs. You can be confident that your financial privacy is a priority of this credit union. We are required by law to give you this privacy notice to explain how we collect, use, and safeguard your personal financial information. If you have any questions, please call us at 337-1433.

We collect nonpublic personal information about you from the following sources:

- Application forms we receive from you
- Your transactions with us and others
- Consumer reporting agencies
- Current or past employers or other financial institutions where you conduct transactions

We may disclose all the information we collect, as described previously and as permitted by law, to companies that perform marketing services on our behalf or to other financial institutions with whom we have joint marketing agreements. To protect our members' privacy, we only work with companies that agree to maintain strong confidentiality protections and limit the use of information we provide. We do not permit these companies to

sell the member information we provide to other third parties.

In order to conduct the business of the credit union, we may also disclose nonpublic personal information about you under other circumstances as permitted or required by law. These disclosures typically include information to process transactions on your behalf, conduct the operations of our credit union, follow your instructions as you authorize, or protect the security of our financial records.

If you decide to terminate your membership with Kekaha FCU, we will not share information we collected about you except as permitted or required by law.

We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about you to those employees who have a specific business purpose in utilizing your data. Our employees are trained in the importance of maintaining confidentiality and member privacy. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations and leading industry practices to safeguard your nonpublic personal information.

Members can help by following these simple guidelines:

- Protect your account numbers, card numbers, PINs (personal ID numbers) and passwords. Never keep your PIN with your debit or credit cards which can provide free access to your accounts if lost or stolen.
- Use caution when disclosing your account numbers, social security numbers, etc. to other persons. If someone calls you saying they represent the credit union and asks for these numbers, beware! Official credit union staff have access to this information and will not need to ask for it.
- Keep your information with us current. It is important that we have current information on how to reach you. If we detect potentially fraudulent or unauthorized activity or use of an account, we will attempt to contact you immediately. If your address or phone number changes, please let us know.

If you have questions concerning this privacy notice, please call us at 337-1433. We are here to serve you.