The Quarterly Member Newsletter of Kekaha Federal Credit Union
September 2010

E-Statements Available

Are you looking for ways to go green? If so, here is an easy way to help the environment and receive your account statement faster.

Kekaha Federal Credit Union is now offering e-Statement delivery to our members — a safe, convenient and free option that allows you to view, download and print your account statement from a secure web site. When you choose e-statement delivery, you will not receive a paper statement in the mail unless you request it. When you sign up for our new E-Statement delivery service you can receive your account statements as quickly as a day or two after the end of each month or quarterly period.

Setting up E-Statement delivery is simple. Go to www.kekahafcu.org and log on to the Online Banking web page, where you'll be taken through a step-by-step process.

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Visit Our Web site
www.kekahafcu.org

Happy Credit Union Day 2010

October 21 is International Credit Union day and we're proud to continue serving the needs of our members and our local community. The theme this year says it all, "Local. Trusted. Serving You."

In tough economic times, it's our cooperative spirit and dedication to our members and community that sets credit unions apart from the rest. Credit unions don't belong to shareholders hoping to turn a profit from your cash. Rather, credit unions are member-owned, and any earnings are returned to you in the form of better rates and higher earnings. Take full advantage of your credit union membership. Meet your borrowing and savings needs with our member-friendly, low-priced services.

We want to thank you for trusting Kekaha FCU to take care of you. We have only your best interests in mind. Let us know how we're doing and what we can do to make your credit union experience even better.

LOCAL. TRUSTED. SERVING YOU.™

Our Island Home

The island of Kauai has an area of 550 square miles. There are 113 miles of shoreline and 50 of those miles are sand beaches.

Membership Benefit: Invest in America

Kekaha FCU is proud to participate in Invest in America, a unique national program for credit union members that offers special discounts on products and services from U.S. based companies. These valuable discounts not only provide savings to credit union members, but it helps stimulate the economy by increasing sales for the participating companies. Invest in America can help save you some money, while helping keep our country strong.

Whether you are in the market for a new auto or wireless phone service, members of Kekaha FCU can receive money-saving discounts from GM, Sprint, DIRECTV, FTD, CU Benefits Express, Allied Moving and Storage.

If you prefer to shop online, take advantage of credit union member discounts through Shop America, where you have access to more than 1,200 online retailers, including some of the largest and most popular, giving you major discounts when you shop.

To learn more about Invest in America and details on all the current discounts visit LoveMyCreditUnion.org.

Invest in America

ShopAmerica 1200+ online retailer discounts

Credit Union Members Receive Cash Back at Over 1,200 Online Retailers! Click here for details.

Smart Spending Puts Holiday Shoppers in Control

At this time of year do you start feeling the stress of the holidays? With Halloween coming soon and Thanksgiving just around the corner, it's easy to start feeling the pinch your pocketbook. If you aren't smart about holiday spending, you could find yourself in trouble before the icing dries on the cookies.

You can avoid financial mishaps by using simple spending strategies for this year's shopping season:

- Create a spending plan—To track expenses you need a budget: Who are you buying for? How much will you spend on each individual? Have specific gifts in mind.
- Shop before leaving home—Comparison shop online to find which stores carry the items you're looking for and the best price. Flag items in flyers and catalogs and bring with you to the store.
- Limit time at the mall—Shop during lunch hours or during your child's sport's practice so you don't have "too" much time.
- If you use a credit card, be committed—Ideally don't charge more than you can pay off when the bill arrives. If that's not possible, don't charge more than you can pay off in the first quarter of next year.
- Beware store cards—These cards generally have higher interest rates than general use credit cards.
- Disregard "buy now, pay later"—It's easy to bring a big purchase home without much thought when you don't have to pay for it for six months. Be cautious: If you don't pay off the item by the due date, you'll be socked with outrageous interest expenses.
- A Kekaha FCU Christmas Savings account just might be the remedy you are looking for. By saving throughout the year, you can be prepared for the holiday crunch. Start planning for next year, by opening a Christmas Savings account at Kekaha FCU. Call us today at 337-1433.

Need Gift Ideas – We Can Help.

With the holiday season right around the corner, you might be looking for a unique gift idea. Check out a pre-paid Visa gift card, which is now conveniently available now at your credit union.

The Visa gift card is a prepaid card welcome everywhere Visa Debit cards are accepted. Visa gift cards are loaded with a set amount of funds on the card and can be used for multiple purchases for as long as value remains on the card. It puts the power of choice in the hands of your friends and family.

The Visa gift cards can be used in person, online or on the telephone and are available for a limited time only, so come in to the credit union today and make shopping this holiday season a breeze.

Life Change To-Do Lists

Life changes--such as getting married, divorced, having a child, or facing widowhood--require more than the subsequent emotional adjustment. These milestones also signal the need to take stock financially and make any necessary adjustments.

Marriage

Have the money talk. Sit down and set financial goals--do you want to save for a new house? Have five kids? Decide if you're going to pool your assets or maintain separate share draft/checking or savings accounts.

Corral credit. Exchange credit reports and take a financial inventory. Focus on cleaning up any credit problems and curtailing future debt.

Make name change notifications. Make a list of agencies to notify if you're changing your name, including credit card issuers, the Social Security Administration (www.ssa.gov), the motor vehicle department, and the U.S. Passport Office.

Create or update your wills and powers of attorney.

Check your insurance. Review your auto, health, property, disability, personal liability, and life insurance coverage. Update beneficiaries on your policies, your IRAs (individual retirement accounts), and other investments.

Divorce

Educate yourself. Go through financial accounts and figure out where the money is. Pull credit reports to see if there are any credit cards or loans that you don't know about.

Collect information. Before your first visit to an attorney, make copies of all financial records, including statements from financial institutions and brokerage companies, tax returns for the past two or three years, mortgage, copies of financial statements on file at any financial institutions, insurance, safe deposit boxes, wills, and trusts.

Establish credit. Open and fund a share draft/checking and savings account in your own name. Get a credit card in your own name and manage it carefully.

Update wills and beneficiaries.

Separate credit accounts. Debt incurred in a joint account will follow both spouses after the divorce. Talk to your lawyer about how to best close joint accounts and limit your liability.

Maintain insurance coverage. During separation you'll still be covered under your spouse's health insurance, but once you're divorced, health insurance must be specified.

Death of a spouse or parent

Get 10 death certificates. You'll need these extra copies for such things as insurance, 401(k) payouts, Social Security, probate, and to change the title on property.

Organize finances. Go through all financial papers and make a list of assets and liabilities; gather statements from financial institutions and brokerage companies, insurance policies, employment records, tax returns, and so forth.

Cancel accounts and services. Check for and cancel any automatic or online bill paying services unless you'll continue to use them. Notify any fee-based membership or subscription services to cancel accounts such as health clubs, magazine subscription, online services, and so forth.

Contact income providers. Notify old employers, pension fund administrators, and financial institutions holding IRAs or other retirement income accounts. Each may have a different beneficiary. If the deceased received Social Security benefits, notify the Social Security Administration as soon as possible, since the estate will have to pay back money received after the death. Check with a certified public accountant or tax preparation service to see if there are tax considerations that need attention.

Contact life and health insurance providers. Insurance companies will distribute money to the beneficiary listed on the policy. Don't cancel health insurance until all outstanding bills have been paid.

Expecting a new baby (birth or adoption)

Understand your finances. If you're planning on moving, buying a bigger car, or want to quit work to raise the baby, you'll need to create a budget that allows you to forecast where you will be financially.

Insure coverage. Visit your employee benefits department to find out what your policy covers, and how much time you have to add a new baby or adopted child to your policy. Research and understand other policies at work relating to such things as maternity or family leave, and flex spending accounts.

Create or update your wills. Besides instructions about how the estate should be distributed, wills also should include the name of whomever the parents have chosen as their child's guardian. Parents also may wish to appoint a different person to be the guardian of the child's money.

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