



**\*\*WARNING: SCAM ALERT\*\***

***The HSBA was alerted by an HSBA member about a scam that is circulating among Hawaii lawyers. A written statement from the member:***

I wish to inform you of some fraudulent transactions in Hawaii in which attorneys may be the victim.

Fortunately, in my case, my local bank had several other earlier incidents involving the same party and the same modus operandi, and they asked if they could confirm the issuance of a cashier's check by Chase Bank.

In my case, a Taiwan electronic company contacted me last month to request my services in a collection matter. At first, I declined, because I did not know the company, and it did not inform me as to the referring person or company. However, the Taiwan company said it had reviewed the websites of several Hawaii attorneys and it felt that I would be best qualified to handle the collection.

The amount to be collected was \$954,555.86. I informed the Taiwan company, I would not start any work until an Engagement Agreement was signed and a retainer paid to me.

Before the Engagement Agreement was signed by the Taiwan Agreement, it informed me that the debtor (a Hawaii corporation) would be paying a part of the debt and it would send a check to me. Yesterday, the Hawaii corporation did send a Chase Bank Cashier's Check for \$487,911.14 made payable to me. The Taiwan company asked me to wire the funds to them as soon as possible, which meant that I would first deposit the Cashier's Check into my Trust Account and then wire the funds to the Taiwan company. They requested that the funds be wired to Bank of China to the Yabaolu Branch in Beijing.

There are several "red flags" in this case. The local company with a debt of \$954,555.86 was able to have a New York Bank issue a Cashier's Check, the debtor mailed the check from Toronto, Canada, and lastly, the Taiwan company requested me to wire funds to its account in Beijing when it is doing business in Taiwan.

When I went to deposit the check at my local bank, one of the officers informed me that they would like to confirm the issuance of the check by Chase Bank.

Today, I learned that Chase Bank did not issue any such Cashier's Check payable to me. First Hawaiian Bank informed me that in the earlier cases, the debtor had checks issued by Citibank New York, which were all invalid checks.

**\*WE URGE YOU TO TAKE EXTREME PRECAUTION WITH SUCH REQUESTS\***