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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Tax Refunds May Open Doors to Theft AG Rapadas Urges Residents to Exercise Precaution**

*April 16, 2014 – Tamuning, Guam-* The surge of approximately \$20 million in tax refunds that will be sent out to island residents over the next few days is expected to fill the pockets of island residents and fuel the economy. With this surge of refund money floating around, it is also likely to fuel scam artists and cons into emptying residents' pockets of their tax refunds and possibly leaving them victims of theft.

Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas cautions island consumers to be proactive and practice safety measures when handling their refunds.

“Whether it is when you are out and about running your errands, doing some shopping, or paying bills; be conscientious. Look around before you drive up to the ATM machine. Be aware of people and things around you,” said AG Rapadas.

“If you have any doubt, leave the area and alert the police. Try to cautiously use a credit or debit card instead of carrying around large sums of cash. If possible, check your bank account daily, that way any purchases you did not make or any suspicious activity can be reported right away,” he continued.

Residents are urged to check and re-check that their names and addresses are current on personal identification such as driver's licenses, passports or military cards. If you suspect theft or fraud, please contact local law authorities and report it immediately.

Consumers are asked to report scams and identity thefts to: **Bernie Alvarez, Consumer Advocate for the Office of the Attorney General at 475-3324 ext. 3340 or to email the information to: [balvarez@guamag.org](mailto:balvarez@guamag.org).**

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