



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General
Phone: (808) 586-1500
Fax: (808) 586-1239

For Immediate Release: March 13, 2010

News Release 2010-03

**PREVIOUSLY-CONVICTED CONTRACTOR PLEADS GUILTY
TO NEW TAX AND UNLICENSED ACTIVITY VIOLATIONS**

HONOLULU – An Oahu-based unlicensed contractor has pled guilty to multiple tax and unlicensed activity offenses.

Tevita Ungounga pled guilty on March 9, 2010, to two counts of False and Fraudulent Statements (a class C felony), four counts of Wilful Failure to File Return (a misdemeanor), and four counts of Unlicensed Activity (a misdemeanor) for his unlicensed contracting that occurred in 2004 through 2007.

From 2004 through 2007, Ungounga had gross receipts totaling \$1,260,392, for which he failed to file or pay general excise taxes in the amount of \$46,828. During this period, Ungounga did not have a valid contractor's license.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 11, 2010 before the Honorable Richard W. Pollack.

Ungounga was previously convicted in 2005 for Wilful Failure to File Return and Unlicensed Activity.

Attorney General Mark Bennett warned against the use of unlicensed contractors, who may lack proper workers compensation and liability insurance, and may lack adequate training and experience.

For information on selecting a licensed contractor or reporting unlicensed activity, visit the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Regulated Industries Complaint Office website at www.hawaii.gov/dcca/rico.

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For more information, contact:
Christopher Young
Deputy Attorney General
(808) 586-1160
www.hawaii.gov/ag