



DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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**UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR FOUND GUILTY FOR
TAX VIOLATIONS & UNLICENSED ACTIVITY**

HONOLULU— Tevita Ungounga, aka Terita Ungounga, an unlicensed contractor was found guilty on all 15 counts in a bench trial by Judge Richard W. Pollack. Ungounga was found guilty of evading his general excise taxes for the tax years 2004 through 2006 (3 counts), evading his taxes for tax year 2007, false and fraudulent income tax returns for the tax years 2004 through 2006 (3 counts), willful failure to file his general excise tax returns for the tax years 2005 through 2007 (3 counts), willful failure to file his income tax return for 2007 and four counts for unlicensed activity.

Despite evidence of gross income totaling \$275,000, \$495,500, \$153,950 and \$204,192 for the years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, respectively, Ungounga was alleged to have been hiding his income by pretended to be an existing licensed contractor, having checks written to others besides himself, and/or immediately cashing (instead of depositing) the checks received. Furthermore, Ungounga had filed his annual general excise tax return for 2004 showing only \$49,100 and he did not file any annual general excise tax returns for 2005, 2006, and 2007.

For the tax years 2004, 2005, and 2006, Ungounga also filed false and fraudulent income tax returns when by failing to report or underreport his income from his unlicensed contracting. In 2007, Ungounga did not file his income tax return.

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False and fraudulent statements is a class C felony violation that carries a fine of not more than \$100,000; imprisonment of not more than three years; and/or probation.

Willful failure to file return is a misdemeanor violation that carries a fine up to \$25,000 for individuals, and a period of incarceration not to exceed one year, and/or probation.

Unlicensed activity is a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 and/or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

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