



DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR SENTENCED TO ONE-YEAR JAIL TERM

HONOLULU – The Department of Taxation's Criminal Investigation Unit has secured another conviction of a taxpayer failing to pay his fair share of taxes. Tevita Ungounga, an unlicensed contractor, was sentenced to a one-year jail term on July 5, 2011 by Judge Richard W. Pollack. After serving his jail term, Ungounga will be on probation and has been ordered to not perform any unlicensed activity and report his wage earnings to his probation officer twice a month.

Ungounga was #1 on the State's Regulated Industries Complaints Office's ("RICO") top 10 list of unlicensed contractors. He has a history with RICO that dates back to 1998. Despite numerous civil judgments/injunctions, including a previous conviction for failing to file his general excise tax return and unlicensed activity, he continued to operate as an unlicensed contractor, often times representing himself to be a licensed contractor.

In September 2009, a complaint was filed against Ungounga for tax evasion, false returns, failure to file, and unlicensed activity (15 counts in total). Ungounga was ordered to stop all unlicensed activity as a condition of bail. Despite these charges, Ungounga proceeded to steal the personal information of a licensed contractor and registered with an online referral service pretending to be the licensed contractor; he ultimately deceived a homeowner into hiring him. An Oahu Grand Jury indicted Ungounga for Identity Theft in the Second Degree, Theft in the Second Degree, and Unauthorized Possession of Confidential Information.

In March 2011, a jury found Ungounga guilty of Identity Theft in the Second Degree, Theft in the Second Degree, and Unauthorized Possession of Confidential Information. Subsequently in May 2011, Judge Pollack found Ungounga guilty of all tax-related charges: four counts of Attempt to Evade or Defeat Tax, three counts of False and Fraudulent Statements, four counts of Wilful Failure to File, and four counts of Unlicensed Activity.

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