



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

PRESS RELEASE

Gene Ward, Ph.D.

State Representative, District 17

Minority Policy Leader

Phone: (808) 586-6420 / Fax: (808) 586-6421

Email: repward@capitol.hawaii.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 9, 2009

For More Information, Please Contact:

Representative Gene Ward (808) 781-9931

Beth Fukumoto (808) 586-6420

REP. WARD WARNS PUBLIC OFFICIALS OF NEW IDENTITY THEFT SCHEME

Representative Gene Ward (R-Hawaii Kai-Kalama Valley) today warned public officials that their identities may be in jeopardy following an alarming letter he received from a constituent.

Following a letter of response from Hawaii Kai's Kona Brewing Co., Rep. Ward discovered that, through the company's feedback webpage, an individual had used his name in conjunction with another public official's title to accuse the establishment of illegal activities and threaten them with investigation.

"This incident is extremely disturbing. The offending individual used my name and position in the community to cause undue stress in a number of my valued constituents, writing to them in a manner that I would never dream of," said Rep. Ward.

As a result, Rep. Ward urges all public officials to pay close attention to incoming emails and letters that could alert them to other instances of identity theft. Furthermore, Rep. Ward is encouraging all companies to include a "reply to" portion on their feedback web pages.

According to Rep. Ward, "As public officials, we have been given titles and positions that solicit trust from our constituents. We must not allow these individuals to tarnish that trust."

###

Representative Gene Ward is a member of the State House of Representatives
and represents House District 17, Hawaii Kai—Kalama Valley.