



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release
January 31, 2017

News Release 2017-10

**STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE CHARGED
FOR DISTRIBUTION OF UNAUTHORIZED MAILERS**

HONOLULU – Attorney General Doug Chin announced that Eric H. L. Ching, a candidate in 2016 for the state house of representatives district 31 seat (Moanalua, Red Hill, Foster Village, Aiea, Fort Shafter, Moanalua Gardens, Aliamanu, Lower Pearlridge), was charged yesterday with two misdemeanors for sending mailers without identifying the individual or organization that had paid for it. Incumbent state representative Aaron Ling Johanson defeated Ching in the general election.

The Hawaii Campaign Spending Commission required Ching to pay a civil penalty of \$25 on four previous violations. After repeatedly being warned to follow the same campaign law related to advertisements. Ching sent two more mailers that lacked the required disclaimers. The Commission only referred the matter to the Attorney General's office for criminal prosecution after the fourth civil fine was assessed.

Ching is now charged with two counts of Unauthorized Advertisements, in violation of sections 11-391(a)(1) and 11-412(a) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. The maximum penalty for each count is a \$2,000.00 fine and up to one year in jail.

Attorney General Doug Chin said, "Campaign laws keep Hawaii elections fair and transparent."

A copy of the criminal complaint is attached.

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Attorneys for the State of Hawaii

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

HONOLULU DIVISION

STATE OF HAWAII

STATE OF HAWAII,

v.

ERIC H.L. CHING,

Defendant.

Case No. _____

COUNT 1:
UNAUTHORIZED ADVERTISEMENTS
(§§ 11-391(a)(1), & 11-412(a), H.R.S.)
(AG RPT. NO. 16-6490)

COUNT 2:
UNAUTHORIZED ADVERTISEMENTS
(§§ 11-391(a)(1), & 11-412(a), H.R.S.)
(AG RPT. NO. 16-6490-1)

COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT

The STATE OF HAWAII, through the undersigned Deputy Attorney General, hereby accuses and charges as follows:

COUNT 1: On or about October 31, 2016, in the City & County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii, ERIC H.L. CHING did recklessly, knowingly or intentionally broadcast, televise, circulate, publish, distribute, or otherwise communicate, including by electronic means, any

advertisement that did not contain the name and address of the candidate, candidate committee, noncandidate committee, or other person paying for the advertisement, in violation of Sections 11-391(a)(1), and 11-412(a) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

COUNT 2: On or about November 3, 2016, in the City & County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii, ERIC H.L. CHING did recklessly, knowingly or intentionally broadcast, televise, circulate, publish, distribute, or otherwise communicate, including by electronic means, any advertisement that did not contain the name and address of the candidate, candidate committee, noncandidate committee, or other person paying for the advertisement, in violation of Sections 11-391(a)(1), and 11-412(a) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii, January 30, 2017.

Douglas S. Chin
Attorney General

/s/ ALBERT COOK

By:

Albert Cook
Deputy Attorney General
State of Hawaii