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News Release

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KPD warns of counterfeit jewelry scam on Kaua'i

LĪHU'E – Kaua'i police are warning the public to be aware of a recent scam on Kaua'i involving the selling of counterfeit jewelry.

According to recent reports, the suspects are approaching people in public places and are going to residences attempting to sell rare or antique jewelry. They are telling victims they are visitors and are selling jewelry because they are in need of money for reasons such as they lost their wallet or their IDs were stolen.

Kaua'i police have confirmed that this is a scam, and is urging the public to exercise extreme caution if someone approaches you and attempts to sell you jewelry.

“With the increase in reports of this particular scam, we are warning the public to be vigilant,” said Assistant Chief Bryson Ponce of the Investigative Services Bureau. “Please do not buy any jewelry from someone who approaches you in this manner – male or female. We recommend having all jewelry inspected by a reputable professional jeweler before making any purchases. And if you suspect any suspicious activity, do not hesitate to walk away and call police.”

If you or someone you know has fallen victim to this jewelry scam or suspect suspicious activity, please contact Kaua'i police dispatch at 808-241-1711. If possible, take note of individual characteristics of the person selling the counterfeit jewelry along with their behavior patterns and vehicles, as it may assist officers in identifying and apprehending suspects.

Additionally, Kaua'i police are reminding the public that scams are presented using many different tactics, and offers the following prevention tips:

- Do not answer or return calls from unknown numbers.
- Be wary of suspicious payment methods.
- Use caution when responding to unsolicited calls or e-mails, or unknown individuals on social networking sites.
- Check your bank, credit card and phone statements regularly. If you see an unknown or unauthorized charge, immediately notify your bank or service provider.
- Senior citizens are popular targets for scam artists as they tend to be more trusting of unknown individuals. Responsible family members should help to keep them safe.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

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