



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

News Release

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COUNTY OF KAUA'I
KAUA'I POLICE DEPARTMENT
TODD G. RAYBUCK, CHIEF
(808) 241-1600

KPD arrests four men in connection with counterfeit jewelry scam, reminds public to stay vigilant

LĪHU'E – Kaua'i police arrested four men on Tuesday, in connection with selling counterfeit jewelry.

The following individuals were arrested on suspicion of Theft in the Second Degree, a Class C felony:

- Mihail Drugan, age 32 of Romania, residing in Seattle, Washington.
- Daniel Calin, age 24 of Romania, residing in Seattle, Washington.
- Vasile Alexandru, age 37 of Romania, residing in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Nicolae Dragomir, age 29 of Romania, residing in California.

According to preliminary investigations, Kaua'i police received several reports earlier this week of individuals approaching people in public places and at residences, attempting to sell rare or antique jewelry. The suspects were reportedly telling victims they were visitors and were selling jewelry because they were in need of money for reasons such as they lost their wallet or their IDs were stolen. Victims later discovered the pieces they purchased were fake, and reported the fraudulent activity to police.

A witness was able to identify the license plate of a vehicle allegedly involved in one of the reported scams. Police later located the vehicle at a Kapa'a hotel, and further investigations led officers to detain four men associated with the vehicle.

The men were brought into police custody without incident on Tuesday. They were later released pending investigation, otherwise known as “RPI.” An RPI means that more time is needed, beyond the maximum 48 hours of holding in police custody, for police to investigate the case before formal charges are made.

While police investigations remain ongoing, the public is reminded to stay vigilant of scams and to exercise extreme caution if someone approaches you and attempts to sell you jewelry.

“In addition to these four men, preliminary investigations reveal that there may be more individuals on Kaua’i that are committing these crimes,” said Assistant Chief Bryson Ponce of the Investigative Services Bureau. “We are asking the public to stay alert and to please report any similar experiences you or someone you know may have encountered. If possible, try to take note of individual characteristics of the person, along with their behavior patterns and vehicles, as it may assist law enforcement in identifying, apprehending, and prosecuting suspects.”

If you or someone you know has fallen victim to this jewelry scam or suspect suspicious activity, please contact Kaua’i police dispatch immediately at 808-241-1711.

As a reminder, Kaua’i police 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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residing in Seattle, Washington.



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