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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEWS RELEASE

HONOLULU--On January 31, 2013, the Disciplinary Board of the Hawai'i Supreme Court imposed a PUBLIC REPRIMAND upon Kealakekua attorney Robert D. S. Kim for twice violating HRPC 1.7(a) by providing representation to a client in two matters that were directly adverse to a client he represented in another matter where it was not reasonable to believe that the representation would not adversely affect his relationship with the adverse client and where he neither consulted with the adverse client nor obtained her consent; for violating HRPC 1.7(b) by representing a client when Respondent was materially limited by his responsibilities to another client or to a third person or by the lawyer's own interest where it was not reasonable to believe that his responsibilities or interests would not adversely affect his representation to the represented client and where he neither consulted with that client nor obtained her consent; and by twice violating HRPC 1.9(a) by representing a client against former clients in two same or substantially related matters where the represented client's interests were materially adverse to the former clients' interests without obtaining the former clients' consent after consultation.

As aggravating factors, the Disciplinary Board found that Mr. Kim's motive was selfish, that his conduct constituted a pattern of misconduct, that his conduct involved multiple offenses, that he made false statements and acted deceptively during the investigation by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, and that, with one exception, Mr. Kim refused to acknowledge the wrongful nature of his conduct. In mitigation, the Disciplinary Board found that Mr. Kim's lack of prior public discipline and his character were mitigating factors.

While the Reprimand does not prevent Mr. Kim from continuing to practice law, it may cause the sanction for any future violations to be more serious than would otherwise be the case.

Mr. Kim, 58, was admitted to the Hawai'i bar on October 16, 1986.

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