

# EXHIBIT

# 9

Ted,

As you know, I am attending the FiRe conference in San Diego and am representing Hawaii as a great place to do business with strong government support for the high tech sector. You know that I have tried to maintain an open and honest relationship with you. I am very disheartened to hear that there seems to be some sort of problem with comments that Rob made on a recent post-radio show interview. I have listened to the show and my take away impression was that the entire show was actually supportive of you and the Governor and what you have been trying to do. During the show, Rob repeatedly criticized the Legislature, NOT the Administration (as did the other panelists) for blocking the innovation initiative, and playing politics to the detriment of the economy. I think that the issue of whether or not comments were made that were critical of the level of support for Act 221 and the tech community's impression of the current administration's support or lack thereof, of Act 221 were not meant to be an attack on you or the Governor, but were part of the larger context of the discussion, which was focused on the difficulties that the administration has had with the Democratically dominated Legislature. If you and/or the Governor haven't listened to the entire show, I urge you to do so.

I should also remind you that Rob specifically wrote testimony for you and the Governor to the ERS this session, supporting the notion of the innovation fund, (HB 1279 etc.) and the greater innovation economy. He also wrote a strong letter of support for you in your re-nomination. In addition, he has been a staunch supporter of helping to stimulate the tech industry in Hawaii and has not been a virulent detractor of you or the Governor.

Now, the alleged comment that you took offense at was:

1) In response to a direct question as to whether the Governor's lack of support for Act 221 adversely affected the support of the tech community for her innovation initiative;

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- 2) Not that "the administration had been less than truthful" as you told Rob, but was that "for many of us, this turned out to be not exactly the truth", which is a very different statement embedded in a longer answer. Since you are attacking Rob on his words, then exact words matter;
- 3) Not made in an angry or accusatory tone, but merely documented the widely held beliefs of the tech community. This Administration has to accept some responsibility for being perceived (rightly or wrongly) as negative toward Act 221, it's not Rob's fault that this is the prevailing view.
- 4) Not during the actual broadcast, but was during the post-show, which is NOT broadcast;

To hear that you and the Governor have threatened to withdraw support of Rob's renewal at the university, and more disturbingly, that you have threatened to deny Kolohala a fair chance at the State's Hydrogen Fund, is both alarming and disheartening in the extreme. I have been a long time supporter of the Governor; I donated the maximum to her campaign and have voted for her twice. I have been a supporter of yours in both your renewal as the head of DBEDT and as a defender of your reputation in the Tech Community. I did these things because I believed that you and the Governor are good for Hawaii and that your administration would not follow the past, but would be instrumental in helping to forge a new future for Hawaii. I have committed more than a million dollars of my own money to helping to grow the technology industry in Hawaii, I have committed my reputation to building a strong venture firm to help Hawaii achieve its stated goal of becoming a technology center in the Pacific, and I have tried to forge a professional bridge between all of the parties involved in growing the tech industry in Hawaii. To have all of my hard work and support for you and the Governor threatened because of an innocuous comment, taken out of context, about the complexities of trying to build a tech industry in a partisan matrix with all of the issues that Hawaii faces is not only unacceptable to me, but truly causes me to rethink my support of this process, of you, and of the Governor.

It is also worth noting that Rob was not interviewed as the Weinman Chair at the University of Hawaii, but was rather introduced as a member of the tech and VC community, a founder of Hawaii Angels, a professor at UH, and a member of a number of other organizations. This is the context in which he made his comments.

I do not want this situation, which to me should not even be an issue, to get out of hand. I would urge you and the Governor to take a deep breath, defer any rash judgment and action, and find time to meet with me and Rob to discuss this face to face. I am confident that we will find that we are on the same side in this and that we will not have to take this alarming and potentially catastrophic issue any further. I look forward to hearing from you on this ASAP.

Again, I am disheartened at the threats that you have made to my company and to my business partner and I am dismayed that you did not call me directly to discuss the situation with me. You know that I have always called you when something comes up in the tech community that concerns you and I would hope that you would do the same for me. We need to work together to be successful!

As I mentioned, I am presenting at the FiRe conference this week, so email is probably the easiest way to get to me, or on my cell, 808-371-9895. I return to Hawaii this coming Saturday and will be back in the office on the 28th.

Aloha,

Michael Pfeffer  
Managing Partner  
Kolohala Ventures

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