



THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

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News Release

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Safadago sentenced to life in prison plus 10 years for causing death of Kapa'a woman

LĪHU'E – Cody M. Safadago, 48, formerly of Washington state, was sentenced Thursday to serve life in prison plus 10 years for stealing a truck and causing a fatal collision in 2017.

Fifth Circuit Chief Judge Randal G.B. Valenciano handed down the sentence after hearing argument from Prosecuting Attorney Justin F. Kollar and court-appointed defense counsel Rosa Flores, Esq.

Safadago was found guilty on August 23, 2019, following a jury trial, of Manslaughter, Leaving the Scene of a Fatal Crash, Unauthorized Control of a Propelled Vehicle, Resisting Arrest, Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence of an Intoxicant, Reckless Driving, Inattention to Driving, and Driving Without License. The case was prosecuted at trial by Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys Sean Van Demark and Ramsey Ross. Ross also serves as Kaua'i's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor under a grant from the State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation. The lead investigator on the case was KPD Officer Shawn Hanna.

The evidence at trial showed that Safadago, on April 27, 2017, was drinking heavily in the vicinity of the Lihi boat ramp in Kapa'a. He stole a pickup truck and drove it at speeds of up to 88 miles per hour, the wrong way on Kūhiō Highway in Kapa'a town, and caused a fatal collision near Kintaro Restaurant, resulting in the death of 19-year-old Kayla Huddy-Lemn, of Kapa'a.



A blood draw following the crash showed that Safadago's blood alcohol concentration was 0.248 at the time of the crash, more than three times the legal limit.

During the emotional sentencing hearing, two members of the Huddy and Lemn 'ohanas addressed the Court, speaking about how the loss of Huddy-Lemn has affected them and their family.

"This Defendant has proven that he cannot be in our community safely for even a single day," stated Prosecuting Attorney Justin F. Kollar. "His repeated conduct throughout his life culminated in today's sentence. Nothing we do can bring Kayla back, but what we can do is ensure that this individual is never in a position to hurt anyone again. I am proud of the work done by the KPD investigators, our Deputy Prosecutors, and our Victim/Witness Advocates throughout this complex case. Our thoughts remain with Kayla's family and we hope that they can find some measure of closure in today's sentence, which is a just and fair one."



Cody M. Safadago



Above: A 2017 photo of the memorial for Kayla Huddy-Lemn along Kūhiō Highway.



Above: A recent photo of a “Justice for Kayla” sign displayed along Kūhiō Highway, in the Kapa‘a community.