



## THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

### News Release

For Immediate Release: July 26, 2019

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#### **Distressed kite surfer rescued from waters off Wailua**

WAILUA – Firefighters rescued a 59-year-old man from rough waters off Wailua Thursday evening.

Kapa'a firefighters, along with Rescue 3 personnel aboard Air 1 and the on-duty battalion chief, were dispatched shortly after 6 p.m. for a possible kite surfer in distress about 500 yards from the Kaua'i Shores hotel in Wailua.

Once on scene, Air 1 located the man and attempted to retrieve him from the water but he refused assistance.

Officials remained on scene to monitor the kite surfer as he attempted to swim back to shore. As darkness started to set and he began to drift out further to sea, rescuers resumed efforts and called the U.S. Coast Guard to provide additional assistance with its boat and helicopter assets.

Air 1 refueled and returned to the scene, where they located the kite surfer and used a Billy Pugh net to retrieve him from the water.

The man, who is a Wailua resident, was safely airlifted to a nearby landing zone at Lydgate Beach Park at approximately 7:45 p.m. He was in good condition and refused medical treatment.

“We would like to remind all beachgoers to heed ocean safety warnings from first responders and officials,” said Deputy Fire Chief Kilipaki Vaughan. “We are very grateful to our



firefighters, rescue specialists, and partners at the U.S. Coast Guard for their diligence to prevent what could have been a tragedy.”

For updated information about ocean conditions, please speak to a county lifeguard, log onto [www.hawaiibeachsafety.com](http://www.hawaiibeachsafety.com), or call the Ocean Safety Bureau at 241-4984.

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