



THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

MICHAEL A. DAHILIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

News Release

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KAUA'I POLICE DEPARTMENT
MICHAEL M. CONTRADES, ACTING CHIEF
Tel (808) 241-1600
Fax (808) 241-1604

KPD warns public about stranger danger incidents

The Kaua'i Police Department is urging the public to be vigilant after three students were approached by a stranger in separate incidents near Hanalei and 'Ele'ele elementary schools.

The most recent incident occurred on Tuesday, Dec. 4, when a student was walking from the Hanalei Elementary School cafeteria back to the classroom, during after school hours. The student was approached by a Caucasian man with short blonde hair, in a black truck. He invited the student into his vehicle, but the student immediately ran away and reported the incident to the school's counselor.

The second incident occurred in September, when two students were walking from 'Ele'ele Elementary School to Melemele Road, to be picked up by their parents. As they were walking, a male subject in a black SUV approached them and asked the students if they needed a ride home. The students refused and the vehicle drove away.

The subject was described as a Caucasian man, with fair complexion.

No further details of the subjects or vehicles are known at this time.

After the incidents were reported to police, parents and staff of both schools were notified.

"In light of these alarming reports, we are urging all parents and educators to talk to your children and students about stranger awareness and safety tips, particularly for those students who walk to and from school," stated Acting Chief of Police Michael Contrades.



KPD shares these safety tips for children:

- Never talk to strangers or get into a stranger's vehicle, even if they say they know your mom or dad.
- If a stranger continues to talk to you, or stops a vehicle near you, run to the nearest safe place and tell an adult. If you have a cell phone, call 911 immediately.
- If a stranger tries to grab you, run and scream for help – do whatever it takes to get away and attract attention from others.
- It is always best to walk with a friend or a group of students.
- Try to remember as much as you can about the stranger or vehicle.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel you are in danger or something is not right, do not hesitate to report suspicious activity to the school or to police.

Anyone with information on these incidents is urged to call Police Dispatch at 241-1711.

Those wishing to remain anonymous can call Crime Stoppers Kaua'i at 246-8300.

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