



## THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

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### News Release

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### **Rescuers respond to distressed swimmers on Kaua'i's North Shore on Monday**

Ocean Safety officials and firefighters responded to multiple calls of distressed swimmers on Monday at Hanakāpī'ai Beach and 'Anini Beach, on the North Shore.

At approximately 2 p.m., Rescue 3 personnel and Air 1 were dispatched to Hanakāpī'ai Beach for a report of individuals who sustained injuries from a large wave that came ashore. Once on scene, firefighters located a 19-year-old female with injuries to her leg and a 27-year-old female with multiple abrasions.

Rescuers airlifted the 19-year-old female to Princeville Airport where awaiting medics provided treatment and transported her to Wilcox Hospital. Personnel returned to Hanakāpī'ai Beach and airlifted the second injured woman to Princeville Airport where awaiting medics provided additional support, then transported her to Mahelona Hospital for further treatment.

Additionally, at around 2:15 p.m., first responders were dispatched to 'Anini Beach where it was reported that three people were being swept out to sea in rough waters. Lifeguards from the Wanini Roving Patrol Unit and North Roving Patrol Unit responded to the scene, along with Hanalei firefighters who also assisted on rescue boards.

Wanini lifeguards were first on scene and saw three men in distress – a man on a stand-up paddleboard, a male swimmer, and a male on a boogie board. Wanini lifeguards brought the stand-up paddler and swimmer to shore using a rescue tube and rescue board, while lifeguards from the North Roving Unit on Jet Ski brought the man on boogie board safely to shore.



It was later learned that the stand-up paddler was attempting to assist the two other swimmers, when he encountered trouble himself. He left the scene prior to being assessed by first responders.

The two other men – age 36 of Chicago, and age 73 of New Mexico – were assessed by personnel and AMR medics for exhaustion and released on scene.

“We would like to remind all beachgoers that we are currently in a high surf season on Kaua‘i. We are very grateful that these incidents did not result in serious injuries or deaths,” said Deputy Fire Chief Kilipaki Vaughan. “Our Ocean Safety officials continue to advise no swimming at all north- and west-facing shores due to the current High Surf Warning, where large waves and dangerous currents are being reported.”

A High Surf Warning for north- and west-facing shores of Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau remains in effect until 6 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1, according to the National Weather Service (NWS). The warning may be extended or modified as conditions develop.

Beachgoers are urged to heed all posted warnings and advisories.

For updated information on ocean and weather alerts, visit the NWS website, [www.weather.gov/hfo](http://www.weather.gov/hfo).

For up-to-date information about Kaua‘i ocean conditions and ocean safety, please speak to a county lifeguard at any lifeguard station, visit [www.hawaiibeachsafety.com](http://www.hawaiibeachsafety.com), or call the Ocean Safety Bureau at 241-4984.

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