

Approved

OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES

Board or Commission	Kauai Police Commission	Meeting Date	March 27, 2026
Location	4444 Rice Street, Moikeha Meeting Room 2A/2B, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766	Start of Meeting: 9:00 a.m.	End of Meeting: 10:03 a.m.
Present	<p>Chair Laurie Yoshida; Vice Chair Mary K. Hertog. Commissioners Mia Ako, John Calma (arrived at 9:02 a.m.), and Lisa Knutson. Also present: Boards and Commissions Staff: Administrator Ellen Ching, Deputy County Attorney Kimberly Torigoe; Boards and Commissions Support Clerk Mercedes Omo. Kauai Police Department: Police Chief Rudy Tai; Assistant Police Chief Elliott Ke; Chief's Secretary Kim Tamaoka; Public Information Officer Tiana Victorino; Technical Services Division: Captain Stacy M. Perreira; KPD Employee of the Month March 2026 Desiree Wakuta-Matsuda, Contracts Specialist; Support Services Bureau: Assistant Chief Makana Rivera; Police Operations Bureau: Assistant Chief Darren Rose; Patrol Administrative Division: Captain Roderick Green; Patrol Administrative Section: Lieutenant Anthony J.K. Morita; Criminal Investigation Division: Captain Lance Okasaki; Kawaihau District Commander Lieutenant Christian D. Jenkins, and other rank and file members in the Kauai Police Department. Member of the public, Mr. Bruce Hart.</p>		
Excused	Commissioner Walton Hong		
Absent			



SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Meeting Called to Order/Roll Call to ascertain quorum	At 9:00 a.m., Chair Laurie Yoshida called the meeting to order. A quorum of four (4) Commissioners was ascertained via roll call.	
Approval of Agenda	Chair Yoshida called for a motion to approve the agenda.	
Chair's	Commissioner John Calma arrived at 9:02 a.m.	

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Announcement		
Public Testimony	Chair Yoshida stated that individuals may testify on any agenda item during this time or wait for the item to come up.	
KPD Employee of the Month, March 2026	<p>Ms. Desiree Wakuta-Matsuda was recognized as KPD's Employee of the Month for March 2026 for her expertise, diligence, and attention to detail, which were crucial in supporting KPD's operations and helping projects progress smoothly. Desiree manages contracts that enable KPD to purchase equipment, services, and resources that officers depend on to maintain public safety across the island. Her strong relationships with various county agencies help simplify complex processes, save time, and ensure critical resources are delivered when needed. Throughout her tenure, Desiree has consistently shown professionalism and a strong commitment to accuracy and timeliness.</p> <p>Chief Tai emphasized that KPD's professional staff are the core of the Police Department. Desiree oversees the tools officers rely on in the field, ensuring teams have the resources they need to serve the community effectively.</p> <p>The Commissioners took turns congratulating Desiree on her outstanding work ethic, highlighting her patience, neutrality, and vital role in ensuring operational compliance and efficiency.</p> <p>Public testimony was received by:</p>	

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	<p>Bruce Hart – This was the first time he could remember KPD honoring a non-sworn employee. Like everyone else, he delights in bringing attention to someone worthy, such as Ms. Matsuda, for nomination as KPD's Employee of the Month. He's met many non-sworn KPD employees from the records department and the office of the chief, and all of them were professional and understood the importance of their roles. The Kauai Police Department could not operate without them.</p> <p>Lt. Anthony Morita – Wanted to let everyone know how friendly and professional Ms. Matsuda is. What sets her apart is her patience, compassion, and willingness to help. He has known Desiree since childhood and can attest that she is a shining star. She's the glue that holds KPD's major projects together.</p> <p>Jackie Harris – Ms. Matsuda is a wonderful person, a wonderful human being, and a good mom. Desiree always manages to stay neutral and calm when things become difficult. Although her job is demanding, she creates a calming environment for herself, which shows in her demeanor.</p> <p>Assistant Police Chief Makana Rivera – Ms. Matsuda's role as a contract specialist is a new position. There's no playbook, and it's still very challenging for Ms. Matsuda, but she has managed to overcome many challenges and is doing a great job. He explained that the theory behind the position was that for years, KPD officers were tasked with handling contracts, and they can all attest to how much of a nightmare the job was.</p> <p>Ms. Matsuda embraced that concept and filled in what was needed. She</p>	

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	<p>may not be on YouTube carrying someone down a trail, but he can tell everyone that every piece of equipment officers use was made possible by Ms. Matsuda's hard work and unwavering commitment. He would like to express his utmost appreciation to Ms. Matsuda for a job well done.</p>	
Recess	<p>At 9:16 a.m., Chair Yoshida called for a ten (10) minute recess for photos and family time.</p>	
Approval of Minutes, February 26, 2026, Meeting	<p>At 9:24 a.m., the meeting reconvened, prompting Chair Yoshida to call for a motion to approve the Open Session minutes of the Commission's February 26, 2026, meeting, or to make amendments.</p> <p>There was no public testimony on this agenda item.</p>	<p>A motion was made by Commissioner Knutson to approve the Open Session minutes of the February 26, 2026, meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ako, and the minutes were approved.</p>
Chief's Monthly Reports February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Office of the Chief – Notable Highlights, Special Projects, Community Engagement, Significant Meetings, Public Information Officer. ○ Support Services Bureau, Criminal Investigations Division, and Field Operations Division – Budget Summary Estimate, Personnel Status, Recruitment Status, DARE Classes, KPAL Programs, Training Provided by Outside Agency: Off-Island, Training Provided by Kaa'i Police Department, Training Provided by Outside Agency: On-Island, Firearms Registered, Handgun Applications, Long Gun Applications, Licenses to Carry Applications, Crime Scene and Laboratory Section - Biometric Identification Facial and Ten Print, Crime Scene and Laboratory Section - Call Out Lab Request, YTD Death Statistics, Person Crimes Section Statistics, Person Crimes Section Enforcement, Property Crimes Section Statistics, Property Crimes Section Enforcement, Property Crimes Section Types, and Vice Section Statistics. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preliminary Point & Time Data – Crime Summary and Activity Summary ○ Agency Statistics – Calls for Service/Incident Summary, Citation Summary, Arrest Summary, Legal Services, Warrant Type – All Divisions, and Warrant Tracking – All Divisions. <p>In addition to his Monthly Reports, Chief Tai expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and teamwork during his first three weeks. He highlighted his immediate involvement in the Kona Low Storm briefing on his first day and the department's collaborative response. Crime and Special Projects: ongoing community engagement along the Kapaa bike path to address concerns about individuals who frequent the area and to provide mental health support. Traffic enforcement citations have increased, and preventive measures targeting high-risk areas are underway. Plans for seatbelt and safety seminars are underway.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the sheriff's jurisdiction, communication gaps, and the need for better coordination with the sheriff's deputies, especially during traffic stops, to improve officer safety. It was noted that sheriffs are not currently on the department's radio system, and efforts are underway to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance communication between KPD and the Sheriffs.</p> <p>There was no public testimony on this agenda item.</p>	

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<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email dated February 28, 2026, from Pikachu Billionaire to the Kauai Police Commission regarding War Intelligence Report: U.S. – Iran Conflict (Operation Epic Fury), Legal Violations, Economic Impacts, Reconstruction Plans, and Hawaii-Specific Risks (Community Concerns and Prophecy). • Email dated March 6, 2026, from Pikachu Billionaire to the Kauai Police Commission regarding formal testimony and report: Urgent importance of the Jeffrey Epstein files for ongoing human trafficking concerns, presidential accountability, and increasing threats to Hawaii's safety and economy. <p>With no further discussion, Chair Yoshida requested two separate motions to accept both pieces of correspondence, noting that the matter was outside the Commission's jurisdiction and that no further action would be taken.</p> <p>There was no public testimony for these agenda items.</p>	<p><u>Motion No 1.</u> A motion was made by Commissioner Ako to receive the email dated February 28, 2026, from Pikachu Billionaire to the Kauai Police Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Calma. There were no objections, and the motion carried 5:0.</p> <p><u>Motion No.2:</u> A motion was made by Commissioner Ako to receive the email dated March 6, 2026, from Pikachu Billionaire to the Kauai Police Commission. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Hertog. There were no objections, and the motion carried 5:0.</p>
<p>BUSINESS OS KPC 2026-6</p>	<p><u>Discussion, deliberation, and possible action on recommendations to revise the Kauai Police Commission Rules on Administrative Practice and Procedure.</u></p> <p>Chair Yoshida stated that efforts to revise the Kauai Police Commission Rules on Administrative Practice and Procedure had to be delayed due to earlier leadership changes within the Kauai Police Department. She also noted, to her understanding, that the Commission is waiting for updated documents. Without further comments, she called for a motion to defer agenda item OS KPC 2026-6.</p> <p>There was no public testimony on this agenda item.</p>	<p>A motion to defer item OS KPC 2026-6 was made by Commissioner Knutson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ako. Hearing no objections, the motion carried 5:0.</p>

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>EXECUTIVE SESSION closed to the public</p>	<p>Under the Hawai'i Revised Statutes §§ 92-4, 92-5 (a) (2) and (4), the purpose of this executive session is for the Commission to review and discuss charges brought against an officer in the Kauai Police Department, where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved, provided that if the individual concerned requests an open meeting, an open meeting shall be held; and to consult with its attorney on issues related to the Commission's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities as they may relate to these items:</p>	<p>Before calling on Deputy County Attorney Kimberly Torigoe to read the Hawaii Revised Statutes and begin the Executive Session, Chair Yoshida invited members of the public to provide testimony on any of the items listed for the Executive Session. No public testimony was given on any of the agenda items listed for the Executive Session.</p> <p>At 9:36 a.m., Deputy County Attorney Kimberly Torigoe began to cite the Hawaii Revised Statutes.</p>
<p>ES KPC 2026-1</p>	<p><u>Regular Monthly updates by Police Chief Rudy Tai or his designated Representative related to the Office of Professional Standards, Monthly Report on the status and/or disposition of formal notarized citizens complaints filed with the Kauai Police Commission and referred to the Office of the Chief for disposition and/or report back to the Police Commission. (Nothing to Report)</u></p>	
<p>ES KPC 2026-2</p>	<p><u>Regular Monthly updates by Police Chief Rudy Tai or his designated representative of any significant adverse incidents/events involving personnel in the Kauai Police Department that could potentially impact the County, the Police Commission, and the Kauai Police Department. (Nothing to Report)</u></p>	
<p>ES KPC 2026-10</p>	<p><u>An update on the notarized Complaint KPC 2025-006, received on September 8, 2025, at the Office of Boards and Commissions. The incident occurred around August 18, 2025. The complainant, an employee of the Kauai Police Department, alleges that another employee's conduct was unprofessional, inappropriate, or improper, as it violated policies and procedures designed to prevent such behavior.</u></p>	

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ES KPC 2026-11	<u>Notarized Citizen Complaint 2026-1, received on February 28, 2026, by the Office of Boards and Commissions. The incident took place on February 4, 2026. The complainant alleges that after being physically assaulted, the responding officers were dismissive, showed favoritism toward the business establishment, and mocked the complainant after emergency medical services personnel left the scene. The next day, the complainant called KPD and asked the assigned officer to meet them at the Mahelona emergency room. The assigned officer stated that the complainant might have choked themselves.</u>	
ES KPC 2026-12	<u>Notarized Citizen Complaint KPC 2026-02, received on March 2, 2026, by the Office of Boards and Commissions. The incident took place on February 19, 2026. The complaint claims that an officer threatened to arrest the complainant if they did not drop the charges.</u>	
ES KPC 2026-13	<u>Unnotarized Citizen Complaint received on March 11, 2026, by the Office of Boards and Commissions. The complainant requests an investigation into alleged federal mail fraud, public corruption, and election violations by the Hawaii Office of Elections and County employees.</u>	
ES KPC 2026-14	<u>Under Hawai'i Revised Statutes §§ 92-4, 92-5(a)(2), (a)(4), and 92-9(b), the purpose of this executive session is for the Commission to approve or amend the minutes from the February 27, 2026, meeting. Publishing the executive meeting minutes would undermine the lawful purpose of these meetings, including the reasons outlined in HRS §§ 92-5(a)(2) and (a)(4).</u>	Chair Yoshida called for a motion to enter the Executive Session. A motion was made by Vice Chair Hertog to enter the Executive Session. Commissioner Knutson seconded the motion. At 9:40 a.m., the Commission entered the Executive Session.
Return to the Open Session	At 9:58 a.m., the Commissioners reconvened in the Open Session.	

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Ratify actions taken in the Executive Session</p>	<p>Chair Yoshida called on Deputy County Attorney Kimberly Torigoe to read the Executive Session Report pursuant to HRS § 92-4(b).</p> <p><u>ES KPC 2026-1:</u> There was nothing to report; no discussions or actions were taken.</p> <p><u>ES KPC 2026-2:</u> There was nothing to report; no discussions or actions were taken.</p> <p><u>ES KPC 2026-10:</u> The Commission received an update on the investigation of Complaint KPC 2025-006. It voted to receive a summary of the administrative review's response to the complaint and to send the complainant a letter acknowledging receipt of the summary. The discussion is not subject to disclosure because it would undermine the purpose of the executive session under HRS 92-5 (a) (2) and (a) (4).</p> <p><u>ES KPC 2026-11:</u> The Commission reviewed Complaint KPC 2026-01. It voted to receive the complaint, refer it to a specially assigned member of the Department, chosen by the Chief of Police, for investigation, and to report back to the Commission for appropriate action. The discussion is not subject to disclosure because it would undermine the purpose of the executive session under HRS 92-5 (a) (2) and (a) (4).</p>	

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	<p><u>ES KPC 2026-12:</u> The Commission reviewed Complaint KPC 2026-02. It voted to accept the complaint, refer it to a specially assigned member of the Department, designated by the Chief of Police, for investigation, and to report back to the Commission for appropriate action. The discussion is not subject to disclosure because it would undermine the purpose of the executive session under HRS 92-5 (a) (2) and (a) (4). Note*: Chair Yoshida asked not to participate in the discussion and decision-making, citing a conflict of interest because she knows the complainant through close family members.</p> <p><u>ES KPC 2026-13:</u> The Commission reviewed an unnotarized complaint received by the Office of Boards and Commissions on March 11, 2026, and voted to reject it for procedural deficiencies. The discussion is not subject to disclosure because it would undermine the purpose of the executive session pursuant to HRS 92-5 (a) (2) and (a) (4).</p> <p><u>ES KPC 2026-14:</u> The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2026, Executive Session meeting. The discussion is not subject to disclosure because revealing it would undermine the purpose of the Executive Session under HRS 92-5 (a) (2) (4) and 92-9 (b).</p>	
Adjournment	There being no further business, Chair Yoshida called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.	A motion was made by Vice Chair Hertog to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Knutson at 10:03 a.m., and the meeting was adjourned.

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Meeting Summary	The meeting captured the key discussions, recognitions, and decisions made by the Kauai Police Commission. The meeting included a roll call, leadership transitions, employee recognition, departmental updates, public comments, and procedural matters, concluding with preparation for an executive session.	

Submitted by: _____
Mercedes Omo, Staff Support Clerk

Reviewed and Approved by: _____
Laurie Yoshida, Chair

Approved as circulated on April 24, 2026.

Approved as amended. See minutes of _____ meeting.