

Approved

OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES

Board or Commission		Kauai Police Commission	Meeting Date	September 26, 2025
Location	Lihue Civic Center Moikeha Conference Room 2A/2B, 4444 Rice Street, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766		Start of Meeting: 9:00 a.m.	End of Meeting: 10:15 a.m.
Present	Commissioners present at the meeting included: Vice Chair Laurie Yoshida; Commissioners Mia Ako, John Calma, Mary K. Hertog, and Lisa Knutson. Also present were Boards and Commissions Support Staff: Administrator Ellen Ching, First Deputy County Attorney Tyler Saito, and Support Clerks Mercedes Omo and Kevin Mince. Kauai Police Department personnel included: Chief's Office Police Chief Elliott Ke; Deputy Chief Mark Ozaki; Executive Operations Manager Dave Carmichael; Chief's Secretary Kim Tamaoka; Public Information Officer Tiana Victorino; Technical Services Division Captain Stacy Perreira; and KPD Employees of the Month for September 2025: Officer Kaulana Renaud, Officer Maria "Gabi" Himongala, Officer Johnathan Anderson, Officer Anthony "Kunane" Gayagas, Sergeant Morris Unuto, and Lieutenant Matthew Tavares. Others present: rank-and-file members of the Kauai Police Department, Councilmember/Public Safety Committee Chair Felicia Cowden, along with the Employees of the Month, families, and friends.			
Excused	Chair Walton Hong			
Testimony	Councilmember Felicia Cowden and Mr. Bruce Hart			

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Meeting Called to Order/Roll Call to ascertain quorum	Vice Chair Laurie Yoshida called the Police Commission's meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call ensued, and a quorum was ascertained. Commissioner Mia Ako responded present. Commissioner John Calma responded present. Commissioner Mary K. Hertog responded present. Commissioner Lisa Knutson responded present. Vice Chair Laurie Yoshida responded present.	

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Approval of Agenda	Vice Chair Yoshida called for a motion to approve the agenda.	There was a motion by Commissioner Hertog to approve the agenda. Commissioner Knutson seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.
Chair's Announcement	The upcoming Regular Monthly Meeting is set for October 24, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. It will take place in the Moikeha Meeting Room 2A/2B, followed by an Executive Session. This schedule is subject to change.	
Public Testimony	Vice Chair Yoshida stated that individuals may testify on any agenda item or wait for the item to be brought up on the agenda.	
Kauai Police Department Employees of the Month for September 2025	Officers Kaulana Renaud, Maria "Gabi" Himongala, Johnathan L.E. Anderson, Anthony "Kunane" Gayagas, Sergeant Morris Unutoa, and Lieutenant Matthew Tavares were recognized as the Kauai Police Department Employees of the Month for September 2025. Captain Stacey Perreira read the Commendation Report as follows: School Resource Officers Kaulana Renaud, Maria Himongala, and Johnathan Anderson, Kaua'i Police Activities League (K-PAL) Officer Anthony Gayagas, Sergeant Morris Unutoa, and Lieutenant Matthew Tavares of the Kaua'i Police Department's Community Engagement Section were recognized for their outstanding leadership and hands-on coordination of three community initiatives: the K-PAL Flag Football Program, the relaunch of the Junior Police Academy, and the fourth annual Touch-A-Truck event.	

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	Officer Gayagas played a key role in planning and executing the K-PAL program, ensuring that participants and volunteers received meals, supplies, and smooth coordination. Throughout the season, those officers went above and beyond, coaching multiple teams and having several of their children volunteer alongside them to support the program. The team also contributed hands-on planning, staffing, and supervision for other K-PAL programs throughout the year, including boxing, pickleball, wrestling, and jujitsu. The Community Engagement Section also revived the Junior Police Academy, a five-day summer program for high school students that had been on hold for six years. The academy provided students with a detailed overview of the criminal justice system, including crime scene investigation, forensic science, firearms safety, and first aid. Officer Johnathan Anderson played a crucial role in restarting the program, overseeing coordination and planning. Several participants expressed interest in pursuing careers in law enforcement because of their previous experience. The Touch-A-Truck event is a free community event gathering that allows families to get up close to emergency and municipal vehicles and meet the everyday heroes who operate them. The event encouraged positive interactions between the community and various emergency service professionals. As the section supervisor, Lieutenant Matthew Tavares played a key role in planning Touch-A-Truck and provided strong leadership and effective management across multiple community programs. His operational coordination and dedication to youth development were essential to the success of each initiative.	

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	After the reading of the Commendation Report concluded, the Commissioners, Police Chief Ke, and Deputy Police Chief Mark Ozaki presented the officers with leis and a certificate of outstanding and exemplary service, congratulating them for a job well done. Vice Chair Yoshida called for public testimony. Councilmember and Committee Chair of Public Safety, Felicia Cowden, stated she was speaking on behalf of the members of the county council. The council is pleased with all the excellent work KPAL is doing for Kauai's youth, especially the school resource officers. She thanked the officers for everything they do for the community. Mr. Bruce Hart expressed appreciation for the dedicated work officers are doing and continue to do for Kauai's youth. He praised Chief Ke and his staff for gathering the Employees of the Month in one room despite their other responsibilities. He was deeply touched to see how the Lord has provided caring men and women as role models for the community's children, especially those who have never been in the presence of a police officer; seeing those officers' friendly faces can only bring them joy and make them feel safe. As an adult, having officers in the community makes him feel secure as well. After the testimony was completed, the officers took a moment to thank everyone for recognizing them at the meeting, especially their families, for all their support. Being appreciated for their work with Kauai's youth is a bonus, as not everyone notices the effort involved in organizing community events. Still, they do it because they want to build a stronger relationship between the police and the community.	

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	At 9:25 a.m., Vice Chair Yoshida called for a recess for pictures. At 9:37 a.m., Vice Chair Yoshida called the meeting back to order.	
Approval of Open Session Minutes	August 14, 2025, Special Meeting August 22, 2025, Regular Meeting Vice Chair Yoshida called for public testimony, but none was offered. Vice Chair Yoshida asked the Commissioners if they had any amendments to the draft minutes. Hearing none, she moved to adopt two motions: the first was to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2025, special meeting, and the second was to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2025, regular meeting.	<u>Motion No.1</u> There was a motion by Commissioner Ako to approve the minutes of August 14, 2025, Special Meeting. Commissioner Knutson seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as circulated. <u>Motion No.2</u> There was a motion by Commissioner Hertog to approve the minutes of August 22, 2025, Regular Meeting. Commissioner Knutson seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as circulated.
Chief's Monthly Report August 2025	○ 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 Estimated Summary, Personnel Status, Recruitment Status, DARE Classes, KPAL Programs, Training by Outside Agency: Off-Island, Training by Kaua'i Police Department, Training 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 Requests, Year-to-	

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	Date (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. ○ 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. Vice Chair Yoshida called for public testimony, but none was offered. Chief Ke asked the Commissioners if they had any questions about the data reflected in his Monthly Reports. Since there were no questions, he noted that on August 6, 2025, KPD held a groundbreaking ceremony for KPAL's new multipurpose facility in Lihue, located next to Vidinha Stadium. He expressed appreciation to the mayor's office for using federal grants to make it possible. The new 4,000-square-foot facility will enable KPAL to host wrestling events, boxing, and weightlifting. If everything stays on track, the date of completion is mid-next year. Chief Ke gave a special shout-out to former Chief Michael Contrades for all his hard work and dedication to procure the project. <u>Questions by the Commissioners</u> In response to a question from Commissioner Hertog about an FBI agent who reported receiving a threat via the National Threat Operations Center on August 23, 2025, involving a middle school student posting a video and commenting that she was going to shoot up the school, what are the consequences? Chief Ke responded that KPD investigated the incident, and, to his understanding, the federal side also investigated the matter.	

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	In response to Commissioner Knutson's question about KPAL's basketball facility and the open field next to Chiefess Middle School, will these facilities remain in their current location? Chief Ke responded that the basketball court will remain in its current location. Commissioner Ako commended KPD's Public Information Officer, Tiana Victorino, for making all the media material available to the public.	
Correspondence	<u>Dated August 19, 2025, from Shelby Pikachu Billionaire to the Kauai Police Commission, urging the Kauai Police Commissioners to take action on U.S. Marshal Justin Davis's organ harvesting ring and the corruption cover-up exposed in Hawai'i County.</u> Vice Chair Yoshida called for public testimony, but none was offered. Vice Chair Yoshida called for a motion to receive the correspondence.	There was a motion by Commissioner Ako to receive correspondence dated August 19, 2025, from Pikachu Billionaire, addressed to the Kauai Police Commission, for the record. Commissioner Knutson seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion carried 5:0.
Business KPC 2025-30	<u>Discussion and possible action on letters to Congressional Representatives Ed Case and Tokuda in support of S.725 and notification to the Hawaii Congressional Delegation.</u> <u>U.S. Senate Passes Bill to Recognize 9-1-1 as a Public Safety Occupation - National Emergency Number Association</u> After a brief discussion and clarification by Police Chief Elliott Ke, Vice Chair Yoshida proposed two motions: the first to support Senate Bill 725, and the second to send letters of support to the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Ed Case, and the Honorable Jill Tokuda, as well as to authorize the Office of Boards and Commissions to write and mail the letters.	<u>Motion No. 1</u> Commissioner Ako made a motion to support Senate Bill 725 concerning the Enhancing First Response Act. Commissioner Calma seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion carried 5-0. <u>Motion No.2</u> A motion was made by Commissioner Knutson to send letters of support from the Police Commission to the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Ed Case, and the Honorable Jill Tokuda, and to

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	After motions were carried out, Boards and Commission Administrator Ellen Ching requested a Motion to adopt the language used in the letters written by Police Chief Elliott Ke and define the language to reflect that the letters are coming from the Kauai Police Commission. She noted that once she completes drafting the letters, she will have Chair Hong come to the office to sign the letters, and then the staff can mail the letters.	authorize the Office of Boards and Commissions to write and mail the letters. Hertog seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion was approved 5-0. <u>Motion No. 3</u> Commissioner Hertog moved to adopt the language from the letters dated September 12, 2025, written by Police Chief Elliott Ke, for use in the letters from the Police Commission. Commissioner Knutson seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed 5-0.
Executive Session	Under 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 privacy matters will be addressed. If the individual requests an open meeting, one shall be held. Additionally, the Commission will consult with its attorney on issues related to its powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities as they may relate to these matters.	At 9:51 a.m., Vice Chair Yoshida called on First Deputy County Attorney Tyler Saito to read the Hawaii Revised Statutes to take the meeting to Executive Session.
ES KPC 2025-1	<u>Regular Monthly updates by Interim Police Chief Elliott Ke or his designated representative related to the Office of Professional Standards, Monthly Report on the status and/or Disposition of formal, notarized citizen complaints that were 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>	

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ES KPC 2025-2	Regular Monthly updates by Interim Police Chief Elliott Ke or his designated representative of any significant adverse incidents/events involving personnel in the Kauai Police Department that could potentially impact on the County, the Police Commission, and the Kauai Police Department. (Nothing to Report)	
ES KPC 2025-18	<u>The notarized complaint numbered KPC 2025-005 was received on August 20, 2025, at the Office of Boards and Commissions. The incident that occurred on July 16, 2025, involved a Kauai Police Department officer. The complainant alleges misconduct, including failing to perform a sobriety test or asking for the individual's license after the person rushed toward the complainant's van and threatened to harm the complainant's dog.</u>	
ES KPC 2025-19	<u>The notarized complaint numbered KPC 2025-006 was 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>	
ES KPC 2025-20	<u>Email correspondence and four attachments were submitted on September 3, 2025, by the complainant, who filed KPC Complaint No. 2025-004, in response to the Commission's disposition of the complaint at its August 22, 2025, regular meeting (all allegations in the complaint were found to be unfounded). The email correspondence submitted on September 3, 2025, requests reconsideration of the Commission's disposition of KPC Complaint No. 2025-004, dated August 22, 2025.</u>	

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ES KPC 2025-21	<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 Executive Session minutes of August 14, 2025, and August 22, 2025 meetings as publication of the executive meeting minutes would defeat the lawful purpose of the executive meetings they reflect, including the purposes in HRS §§ 92-5(a)(2) and (a)(4).</u> Before moving to a motion to enter the Executive Session, Vice Chair Yoshida asked for public testimony on any items included in that session. Since no one responded, Vice Chair Yoshida called for a motion to enter the Executive Session.	Commissioner Hertog moved to enter the Executive Session. Commissioner Knutson seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, at 9:54 a.m., the Commission entered the Executive Session.
Return to Open Session	At 10:12 a.m., the Commission reconvened in the Open Session.	
Ratification	Vice Chair Yoshida called on First Deputy County Attorney Tyler Saito to read the Executive Session Report pursuant to HRS § 92-4(b). Mr. Saito read the Executive Session Report for the following Executive Session items. <u>ES KPC 2025-1:</u> There was no report. No discussion or action was taken. <u>ES KPC 2025-2:</u> There was no report. No discussion or action was taken.	

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	<u>ES KPC 2025-18:</u> The Commission reviewed and voted to receive KPC Complaint 2025-005. The Commission voted to refer the complaint to the Chief of Police for investigation and to report back to the Commission for appropriate disposition. The discussion was not subject to disclosure as it would frustrate the purpose of the executive session pursuant to HRS 92-5 (a) (2) and (a) (4). <u>ES KPC 2025-19:</u> The Commission reviewed Complaint KPC 2025-006. The Commission voted to refer the complaint to the Chief of Police, as the complaint involved matters related to the administration of the Department. The Commission is unable to interfere with the administrative affairs of the Department. The Commission voted to approve letters to the Complainant and to Chief Elliott Ke, reflecting the Commission's actions on the complaint. The discussion was not subject to disclosure as it would frustrate the purpose of the executive session pursuant to HRS 92-5 (a) (2) and (a) (4). <u>ES KPC 2025-20:</u> The Commission reviewed the email correspondence and the four attachments that were submitted on September 3, 2025, by the Complainant who filed KPC 2025-004. The Complainant submitted additional documents with a request to the Commission to reconsider its August 22, 2025, disposition of Complaint KPC 2025-004. The Commission voted to receive the email correspondence and the four attachments that were submitted on September 3, 2025, by the Complainant, and took no further action on the matter. The discussion was not subject to disclosure as it would frustrate the purpose of the executive session pursuant to HRS 92-5 (a) (2) and (a) (4).	

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	<u>ES KPC 2025-21:</u> The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the Executive Session meetings held on August 14, 2025, and August 22, 2025, as circulated. There was no discussion on the matter. The disclosure of the discussion would defeat the purpose of the executive session, HRS 92-5 (a) (2) and (a) (4), and 92-9 (b). Vice Chair Yoshida called for a motion to ratify the actions that were taken in the Executive Session.	Commissioner Hertog made a motion to ratify the actions that were taken in the Executive Session. Commissioner Knutson seconded it. Since there was no further discussion, the motion carried 5:0.
Adjournment	There being no further business, Vice Chair Yoshida called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.	Commissioner Hertog moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Knutson seconded the motion. At 10:15 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: _____
Mercedes Omo, Staff Support Clerk

Reviewed and Approved by: _____
Laurie Yoshida, Vice-Chair

(x) Approved as circulated on October 24, 2025.

() Approved as amended. See minutes of _____ meeting.