News Release

For Immediate Release: December 6, 2022

COUNTY OF KAUA'I
DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR CONTROL
LEO SANDOVAL, DIRECTOR
(808) 241-4966

Department of Liquor Control focusing on added compliance checks this holiday season

LĪHU'E - Investigators from the County of Kaua'i Department of Liquor Control are focusing their efforts across the island to ensure alcohol is sold safely and responsibly during this holiday season.

Investigators plan to conduct compliance checks at Kaua'i businesses and work directly with business owners to identify minors using false identification to buy alcohol.

The operation, which begins in December and runs through early January 2023, is part of the Department of Liquor Control's overall mission to keep alcohol out of the hands of anyone younger than 21. During the operation, minors working with the Department of Liquor Control will enter businesses to purchase alcohol. If a sale occurs, Liquor Investigators will enter the business to notify its managers of the violation. Liquor Investigators will also join security personnel at certain businesses to help screen customers' IDs as they enter the premises.

The Liquor Department's goal with these operations is to collaborate with businesses to ensure they're equipped to operate safely and successfully, especially as they prepare for a busy holiday season and New Year.

Business employees who violate the law will be cited or arrested and must appear in court. If found guilty, they may face a penalty of up to a $2,000 fine and/or one (1) year in jail.

If an employee while on duty violates any Liquor Law or Commission Rule, the licensee may be penalized with a fine of up to $5,000 or have their liquor license suspended or revoked. HRS 281- 91.

Businesses with questions about best practices for safe alcohol sales can contact the Department of Liquor Control office to speak with an Investigator and get educational materials while supplies last. They can contact the Liquor Department at 808-241-4966 or email liquor@kauai.gov.

###