

KAUA'I POLICE DEPARTMENT

2023
YEAR IN REVIEW



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*Design and Production by
the Office of the Chief*



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As we step into 2024, it is an honor to reflect upon the extraordinary commitment demonstrated by the men and women of the Kaua'i Police Department throughout the past year. With a heart of service, these individuals have dedicated their work to making a positive difference within our community. We are thrilled to unveil the very first Year In Review, a compilation of 2023's highlights.

Last year, the department celebrated 80 years of service to the people of Kaua'i. Much has changed since 1943. However, one thing remains the same, and that is that police work is greatly enhanced by the active involvement and support of community members. When we look back at the remarkable history of our department and its impact on this community, it becomes evident that all of our achievements were the result of a collective endeavor.

Looking back on 2023, we witnessed outstanding work in several important areas. To name just a few, we strengthened our on-going commitment to the Kaua'i community with an immensely successful K-PAL season. This was achieved only through community support combined with an amazing level of commitment from officers and personnel from throughout the department. We also saw the successful apprehension of many dangerous criminals, including the multi-day island-wide manhunt for wanted murder suspect, Chris Santos, which highlighted excellent police work by detectives, officers, dispatchers and federal partners who all answered the call to assist. Our Emergency Services Dispatchers handled over 58,000 calls for service, maintaining composure under stress and getting resources where they need to be to help save lives. Our Police Officers, including the Traffic Safety Section, made over 2,900 arrests and made over 7,500 traffic enforcement contacts to help keep the community safe. Our Records clerks, Crime Scene Response Unit, and professional staff throughout the organization worked tirelessly to deliver exceptional service and keep the department functioning at all times.

In addition to the excellent day-to-day work performed by personnel throughout the department, we were also able to implement several important initiatives. These include Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to help our officers hone their de-escalation skills, a new on-line training platform called PoliceOne Academy and new technologies such as the state-of-the-art Cortexflo crime scene camera system.

Law enforcement is an ever-changing profession with increased demands and expectations. As Chief of Police, every day I see examples of the incredible dedication, commitment, professionalism and courage that our Kaua'i Police Department personnel show in order to deliver the excellent service and protection our island deserves. As always, we are here for you, and it is our honor to be able to serve Kaua'i and all its people.

The strong partnership between the Kaua'i Police Department and our community is the foundation that allows us to deliver top-notch service. Mahalo for your collaboration, support and trust in the Kaua'i Police Department.



Chief Raybuck gearing up for KPD's 2nd Annual Touch-A-Truck event last July

TODD G. RAYBUCK
CHIEF OF POLICE

SAFETY BY THE NUMBERS



Based on the 2023 KPD Agency Statistics Report

Our dedicated team of dispatchers and officers work together tirelessly to ensure that Kaua'i remains a safe place to live and visit.

DISPATCH RECEIVED 58,387 CALLS FOR SERVICE
9 OUT OF 10 CALLS REQUIRED POLICE RESPONSE



7,562
TRAFFIC
STOPS

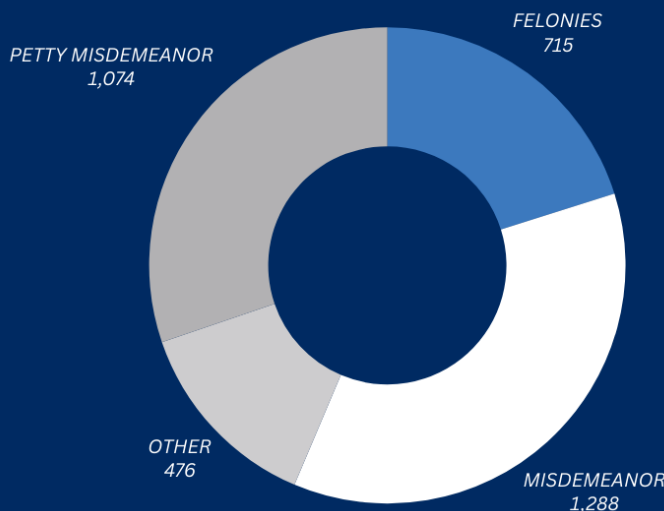


2,934 ARRESTS



3,553 CHARGES

*MULTIPLE CHARGES MAY APPLY TO A SINGLE ARREST



310 Mobile

3,880 Moving

2,386 Parking

423 Seatbelt

1,956 Speed

241 OVUII Arrests

MAHALO FOR YOUR SERVICE

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 RETIREES

**ASSISTANT CHIEF
BRYSON M. PONCE**
25 Years of Service

**LT. KENNETH P.K.
CUMMINGS**
25 Years of Service

**LT. JAMES J.
MILLER**
25 Years of Service

**SGT. DARLA A.
ABBATIELLO**
33 Years of Service

**SGT. ROLLAND B.K.
PEAHU JR.**
26 Years of Service

**SGT. BERNARD
PURISIMA**
25 Years of Service

**OFFICER PARIS M.
RESINTO**
29 Years of Service

**EMS DISPATCHER
DONN Y. TANIGUCHI**
24 Years of Service

2023 PROMOTIONS

MARK T. OZAKI
Assistant Chief of Police

MAKANA A. RIVERA
Police Captain

DARREN D. ROSE
Police Captain

AARON W.R. LESTER
Police Lieutenant

2023 EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

**OFFICER TYLER CHINEN
OFFICER KINSEY GREGORY
OFFICER PATRICK HUTTON
OFFICER JAMES PATERSON
OFFICER JAMES GAUSE
OFFICER TYLER URATSUKA
OFFICER KYLE MELCHOR
OFFICER BLAKE SAITO
VIVIAN AKINA
JEANETH PANOY**

**DETECTIVE COLIN NESBITT
DETECTIVE JASON MATSUOKA
DETECTIVE BRIAN SILVA
DETECTIVE ERIC CASPILLO
DETECTIVE CLYDE CAIRES
OFFICER ERIC OGIHARA
OFFICER KYLE SUNN
OFFICER ALEX LACSON JR.
OFFICER PARIS RESINTO
OFFICER CHRISTIAN KAUI**



HIGH PROFILE ARRESTS



FATAL SHOOTING SUSPECT MEETS JUSTICE

On Sept. 7, 2023, a shooting on Kahili Mountain Road left one dead and another victim in the hospital. KPD investigators identified Chris Santos as the prime suspect and initiated a nine-day manhunt. With the collaboration of the U.S. Marshals Service, the FBI and the community's vigilance, Santos was arrested for murder and other felony offenses.



MOST-WANTED FUGITIVE APPREHENDED

Last summer, KPD and The U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force teamed up to track down the four most-wanted fugitives on Kaua'i. Among them, Dain Kagawa was sought on an arrest warrant for promoting dangerous drugs, illegal explosive devices and possessing prohibited weapons. Through the diligent efforts of both organizations, Kagawa was arrested on Jun. 7, 2023, ensuring that he would face the consequences for his criminal activities.



ARMED CAR ROBBERY SUSPECT CAPTURED

On Nov. 13, 2023 police began investigating a car hijacking that occurred at Ahukini Landing. Through the unwavering vigilance of patrol officers, KPD was able to successfully identify Sateki Nisa as a suspect and arrest him as he was attempting to evade capture. Nisa was arrested for multiple offenses including robbery, reckless endangering, driving without a valid driver's license and credit card theft.

COMBATING CRIME WITH CORTEXFLO

A gamechanger for the department's Investigative Services Bureau, the Cortexflo camera assists KPD's certified Sexual Assault Forensic Nurse Examiners during medical examinations with victims of sexual assault. The specialized camera allows examiners to take evidence-grade pictures and video without the need for advanced photographic skills or training. This system allows examination times to be significantly shortened, resulting in a less invasive process for victims. KPD obtained the camera through the federally funded Violence Against Women Act grant.



LEADING THE WAY TO WELLNESS

The lack of mental health emergency services across the U.S. has resulted in law enforcement officers serving as first responders to most crises. A Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program is an innovative, community-based approach to improve the outcomes of these encounters. This summer, KPD sent a team of 21 to receive training to become wellness advocates. Through collaborative community partnerships and intensive training, CIT improves communication, identifies mental health resources for those in crisis and ensures officer and community safety.



WHAT'S NEW



K-PAL MAKES A COMEBACK

The Kaua'i Police Activities League (K-PAL) resumed its flag football program last summer after being on hold since 2020. K-PAL also hosts year-round programs for boxing and wrestling. Altogether, island-wide K-PAL programs reached over 1,000 youth. Programs are offered for keiki ages K - 12th grade. To find out more information, please contact kpai@kauai.gov or call (808) 241-1933. To register your child for the upcoming 2024 season or sign up to be a volunteer, please scan the QR code .



Please scan the QR code to find out more about K-PAL programs



SNIFF, SERVE AND PROTECT

Say hello to the newest canine members of the KPD ohana, Sudo and Kratos. Both two-year-old rookie K-9s joined the department last spring after veteran dogs Tora and Bika retired after many years of service. Initial training for a K-9 can take anywhere from eight months to a year. Specializing in detecting narcotics, these canines have seamlessly integrated into the force and have proven to be an invaluable asset in conducting investigations related to illegal substances. Their exceptional scenting abilities are extremely beneficial in conducting illicit drug investigations and help officers to process scenes more efficiently. These furry, four-legged heroes are prepared to use their noses to safeguard the wellbeing of the community.



POLICE ONE ACADEMY

In collaboration with Lexipol, KPD is now offering its staff the chance to benefit from PoliceOne Academy, an advanced platform dedicated to top-notch police training. Lexipol is a public-safety focused company that provides broad-based training and risk management solutions for agencies across the country. Classes have 24/7 access to online learning for officers and non-sworn staff to train when it is convenient for them. The platform has over 400 proprietary courses and more than 1,100 training videos on De-escalation, Active Shooter, Community Policing, Dispatch Communications, Leadership Development and more. These resources are available anytime, anywhere and have been a valuable support for KPD employees.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Lieutenant Philip Banquel was honored as the 2023 Officer of the Year by the Hawai'i State Law Enforcement Officials Association during the 67th annual conference in Waikoloa, Hawai'i Island. This was the first time in four years that officers were recognized in-person, as the conference had been on hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lt. Banquel's exceptional ability to keenly observe, make decisive actions, and remain composed under pressure resulted in the saving of his neighbor's life. His selection was based on these remarkable qualities. While driving home off-duty, Lt. Banquel noticed a man lying on a lawn. Rather than simply assuming everything was alright, Lt. Banquel checked on the man and found him to be unresponsive. Without wasting any time, Lt. Banquel called for medical help and performed CPR until paramedics arrived. Thanks to his quick actions, the man was able to survive the incident.

Lt. Banquel's unwavering commitment and sincere concern for others allowed him to save a life. Moreover, he effectively imparts this mindset to police officer recruits and sets a commendable example as the Commander of the Field Training Officer (FTO) program, 9-1-1 Dispatch Center and Cell Block. He is a shining example of aloha, positivity and has a can-do spirit that is contagious to those who work with him. KPD takes great pride in having him as a part of its 'ohana, along with his son, Blaise, who successfully completed the 97th police recruit class.



2023 Officer of the Year Lt. Philip Banquel (right) and 2022 Officer of the Year Kalani Apilado (left)

TOP COP HAWAII

Since 1984, the Law Enforcement and Security Coalition of Hawaii has recognized exceptional law enforcement professionals for their dedication, heroism and community service. In 2023, Detective Darin Irimata was awarded the prestigious honor of Top Cop.

Detective Irimata's commitment to protecting Hawai'i's youth through successful Keiki Shield Operations and his commendable work as an Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force member truly showcases his dedication to the highest law enforcement standards. One notable case in Detective Irimata's career involved apprehending an adult male suspect for escalating criminal actions against juveniles, resulting in the suspect's arrest and indictment for Sexual Assault in the First Degree. His diligent efforts not only brought justice but also ensured community safety by keeping the suspect in custody without bail.

Detective Irimata not only excels in investigations but also drives progress in the field by proposing new solutions and advocating for the use of cutting-edge technology and programs. His commitment to professional growth and support for colleagues underscores his dedication to enhancing law enforcement practices. Detective Irimata's exceptional dedication to safeguarding Hawai'i's children, remarkable investigative abilities, and tireless efforts set him apart as an outstanding recipient of this award.



Detective Irimata interacts with students at a career day program

WELCOME TO THE 'OHANA

Last year, KPD hired 10 new police officer recruits during its two yearly recruit classes. In addition to the new recruits, KPD also welcomed seven civilian staff to its 'ohana, including an Accountant, Emergency Services Dispatchers, and Police Evidence Custodian and Records employees.

Candidates are selected based on their outstanding character and willingness to serve their community. Each brings their own set of professional and life experience to complement the existing dedicated staff of KPD.

Recruitment for the force is ongoing. Be a part of the next Police Academy class! The salary for a police officer ranges from approximately \$72,000 to over \$118,000 and includes a robust benefit package. Qualifications include a high school diploma or equivalent, a valid driver's license and a minimum age of 20 years. Applicants should not have any misdemeanor, felony or domestic violence convictions.

Find success in a rewarding career.



Go to www.kauai.gov/jobs to start the application process



80 YEARS



OF SERVICE



One of the original County of Kaua'i police badges

**“THE COMMUNITY HAS RELIED ON OUR SERVICES FOR OVER EIGHT DECADES, AND WE ARE PROUD TO CONTINUE OUR COMMITMENT.”
– CHIEF RAYBUCK**

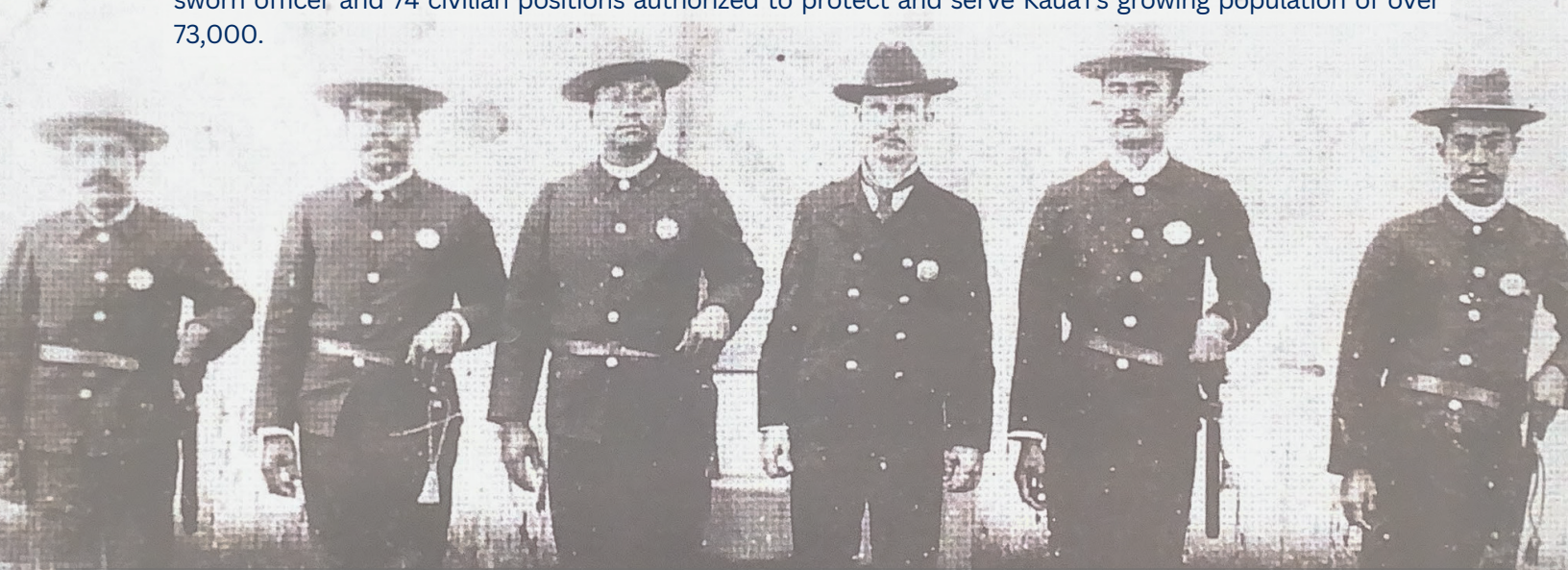


2023 KPD 80th Anniversary redesigned badge

The Kaua'i Police Department celebrated its 80th anniversary in July of 2023. In honor of the legacy of law enforcement on Kaua'i, the department began a new tradition of issuing a commemorative badge to employees and retirees. The unique special edition shield was minted in recognition of the dedication of KPD's staff and sworn officers over the years. The redesign pays homage to the original 1943 County of Kaua'i police badge.

Although KPD has been in operation for 80 years, law enforcement on the Garden Isle predates its establishment by a considerable period. It was in 1851, 92 years prior, that the Office of the Sheriff was established. However, Act 64 of the 1943 Session Laws of Hawaii eliminated the Office of the Sheriff and formed the Kaua'i Police Department. Edwin K. Crowell was appointed as the first police chief by the Kaua'i Police Commission on July 1, 1943. At that time, the department employed 15 officers and five deputies.

The department has evolved since its humble beginnings. Today, the Kaua'i Police Department has 161 sworn officer and 74 civilian positions authorized to protect and serve Kaua'i's growing population of over 73,000.



From left to right: Sheriff Napihelua, Sheriff Simeona Kaialau, Sheriff Isaac Iona, Sheriff E. Omstead, Sheriff Oliwa Robinson, Sheriff Philip Meawa



KAUA'I, WE ARE IMMENSELY GRATEFUL FOR THE PAST 80 YEARS OF UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES YOU HAVE SHARED WITH US.





IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, CALL 9-1-1

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| (808) 241-1711 | NON-EMERGENCY CALLS |
| (808) 246-8300 | CRIME STOPPERS |
| (808) 241-1965 | ABANDONED VEHICLES |
| (808) 241-1647 | RECRUITMENT |
| (808) 241-1933 | COMMUNITY RELATIONS |
| (808) 241-1688 | OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS |
| (808) 241-1661 | POLICE RECORDS |
| (808) 241-1663 | WEAPONS REGISTRATION |

FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT KPDPIO@KAUAI.GOV



This Year In Review is also available online at www.kauai.gov



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