



## POLICE COMMISSION

LAURIE YOSHIDA, CHAIR  
MARY K. HERTOG, VICE CHAIR

MERRILEE "MIA" AKO, MEMBER  
JOHN CALMA, MEMBER  
LISA KNUTSON, MEMBER  
WALTON HONG, MEMBER  
VACANT, MEMBER

Meetings of the Police Commission will be conducted as follows until further notice:

- Meetings will be publicly noticed pursuant to HRS Chapter 92.
- Minutes of the meeting will be completed pursuant to HRS Chapter 92 and posted to the Commission's website upon completion and approval.

### Public Comments and Testimony:

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- **Written testimony** will be accepted for any agenda item herein.
  - Written testimony indicating your 1) name or pseudonym, and if applicable, your position/title and organization you are representing, 2) the agenda item that you are providing comment on, and 3) contact information (telephone number and email address), may be submitted to [mromo@kauai.gov](mailto:mromo@kauai.gov) or mailed to the Police Commission, c/o Office of Boards and Commission, 4444 Rice Street, Suite 300, Lihue, Hawaii 96766.
  - Written testimony received by the Police Commission at least 24 hours before the meeting will be distributed to all Police Commissioners before the meeting.
- **Oral testimony** will be taken during the public testimony portion of the meeting in-person at the public meeting.
  - It is recommended that anyone interested in providing oral testimony register at least 24 hours before the meeting by emailing [mromo@kauai.gov](mailto:mromo@kauai.gov) or calling (808) 241-4920. Any request to register shall include 1) your name or pseudonym, and, if applicable, your position/title and the organization you are representing, 2) the agenda item you are providing comment on, and 3) your contact information (telephone number and email address).
  - Per the Police Commission and Chair's practice, there is a three-minute time limit per testifier per agenda item.
  - Individuals who have not registered to provide testimony will be given an opportunity to speak on an agenda item following speakers who have registered.

### **SPECIAL ASSISTANCE**

IF YOU NEED AN AUXILIARY AID/SERVICE, OTHER ACCOMMODATION DUE TO DISABILITY,  
OR AN INTERPRETER FOR NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING PERSONS  
CONTACT THE OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AT (808) 241-4917 OR  
[ADAVIS@KAUAI.GOV](mailto:ADAVIS@KAUAI.GOV) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. REQUESTS MADE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE WILL  
ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME TO FULFILL YOUR REQUEST. UPON REQUEST, THIS NOTICE IS  
AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS, INCLUDING LARGE PRINT, BRAILLE, OR AN ELECTRONIC  
COPY.

**REGULAR MONTHLY POLICE COMMISSION MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

Friday, January 23, 2026

9:00 a.m. or shortly after

4444 Rice Street, Moikeha Conference Room 2A/2B, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL TO ASCERTAIN QUORUM**

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**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on **Friday, February 27, 2026**, in the Moikeha Meeting Room 2A/2B, followed by an Executive Session. This is subject to change.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ANY AGENDA ITEMS**

Individuals may testify on any agenda item or wait until the item comes up.

**KAUAI POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 2026**

Officer Joseph Himongala

**APPROVAL OF THE OPEN SESSION MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION'S**

November 21, 2025, Meeting

December 19, 2025, Meeting

**CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORTS FOR DECEMBER 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 Summary Estimate, Personnel Status, Recruitment Status, DARE Classes, KPAL Programs, Training Provided by Outside Agency: Off-Island, Training Provided by Kaua'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.
- **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.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Letter from Julie Antolin, SHOPO State Board Administrative Secretary, dated January 15, 2026, to Laurie Yoshida, Chair of the Kauai Police Commission.

Letter from Nick Schlapak, SHOPO President, dated December 22, 2025, to Walton Hong, Chair of the Kaua'i Police Commission.

#### **BUSINESS:**

##### **OS KPC 2026-1:**

Discussion and possible action regarding a communication dated December 22, 2025, from Nick Schlapak, SHOPO President, to Chair Walton Hong, requesting immediate public disclosure of the Commission's hiring actions.

Attachment: Draft letter dated January 23, 2026, from members of the Police Commission in response to a communication dated December 22, 2025, from SHOPO President Nick Schlapak.

##### **OS KPC 2026-2:**

Discussion, possible action, and a briefing by a representative from the Department of Human Resources on the results of the Chief of Police selection process, including Rudy Tai's drug test, polygraph, and physical and psychological assessments.

##### **OS KPC 2026-3:**

Discussion, possible action, and a briefing by a representative from the Office of Boards & Commissions on the results of a background investigation regarding Chief of Police-select Rudy Tai.

##### **OS KPC 2026-4:**

Discussion and possible action on extending the final offer of employment, including determining a salary amount and an anticipated start date, to Rudy Tai for the Chief of Police position.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

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:

ES KPC 2026-1:

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)**

ES KPC 2026-2:

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 the County, the Police Commission, and the Kauai Police Department. **(Nothing to Report)**

ES KPC 2026-3:

Under Hawai'i Revised Statutes §§ 92-5(a)(2) and (4), the purpose of this executive session is for the Commission to receive a briefing by a representative from the Department of Human Resources on the results of Chief of Police- select Rudy Tai's drug test, polygraph, and physical and psychological assessments, 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 questions and issues pertaining to the Commission's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities as it relates to this agenda item.

ES KPC 2026-4:

Under Hawai'i Revised Statutes §§ 92-5(a)(2) and (4), the purpose of this executive session is for the Commission to receive a briefing by a representative of the Office of Boards & Commissions on the results of a background investigation regarding Chief of Police-select Rudy Tai, 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 questions and issues pertaining to the Commission's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities as it relates to this agenda item.

ES KPC 2026-5:

Under Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 92-5(a)(4), the purpose of this executive session is for the Commission to consult with its attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Commission's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities and it relates to extending a possible final offer of employment, which includes a salary amount and anticipated start date, to Rudy Tai for the position of Chief of Police.

ES KPC 2025-23:

Under the 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 the November 21, 2025, meeting, as publication of the executive meeting minutes would defeat the lawful purpose of the meetings they reflect, including the purposes set forth in HRS §§ 92-5(a)(2) and (a)(4). *(Deferred on December 19, 2025)*

ES KPC 2026-6:

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 the December 19, 2025, meeting, as publication of the executive meeting minutes would defeat the lawful purpose of the meetings they reflect, including the purposes set forth in HRS §§ 92-5(a)(2) and (a)(4).

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION TO RATIFY THE ACTIONS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Executive Session Report by County Attorney Tyler Saito pursuant to HRS § 92-4(b).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Under HRS § 92-7(a), the Commission may, when deemed necessary, hold an executive session on any agenda item without a written public notice if the executive session was not anticipated in advance. Any such executive session shall be held pursuant to HRS § 92-4 and shall be limited to those items described in HRS § 92-5(a).

**ADJOURNMENT**

cc: County Attorney Tyler Saito  
Deputy County Attorney Kimberly Torigoe  
Chief of Police Elliott Kalani Ke  
Deputy Chief of Police Mark Ozaki